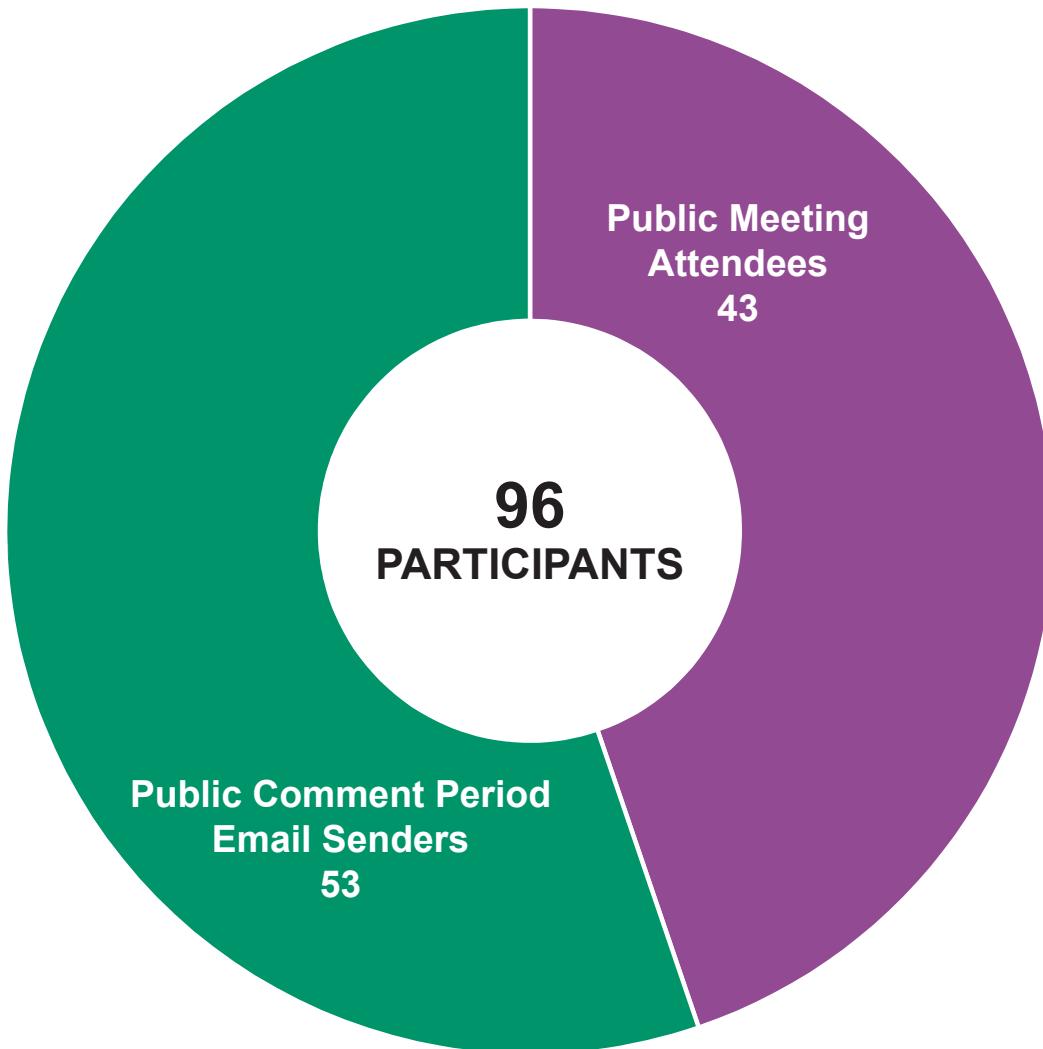


An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are several large, green agricultural fields with distinct crop patterns. A winding river or stream cuts through the fields, eventually leading to a larger body of water on the right side of the image. In the background, there are more fields, some clusters of trees, and a distant town with numerous buildings. The sky is clear and blue.

# **PUBLIC MEETING & COMMENT PERIOD SUMMARY**

MEETING DATE JUNE 5, 2024 • COMMENT PERIOD MAY 30 – JULY 15, 2024

Prepared by Site Resources, Inc. for Harford County Parks and Recreation



Based on a sign-in sheet for the public meeting and email signatures, four (4) participants are included in both the "Public Meeting Attendees" and the "Public Comment Period Email Senders." These four participants commented via email during the public comment period, but it is unknown whether or not they also provided comments during the public meeting, as those comments were made anonymously.

Harford County engaged the public in the early phases of the master planning process for the Oakington Peninsula Park System by invitation to a public meeting and through a public comment period.

LOCATIONS represented (& shared) by participants included:

Aberdeen, MD	Havre de Grace, MD
Abingdon, MD	Jarrettsville, MD
Bel Air, MD	Joppa, MD
Belcamp, MD	Joppatowne, MD
Darlington, MD	Kingsville, MD
Forest Hill, MD	Royersford, PA

GROUPS represented by participants included:

Chesapeake Paddlers Association
City of Havre de Grace
Fallston Community Advisory Board
Harford County Disc Golf Club
Harford County DPW Watershed Protection & Restoration
Havre de Grace City Council
Havre de Grace Recreation Committee
Havre de Grace Youth Commission
Historical Society of Harford County
Homeowners / neighbors (i.e. Oakington Manor)
Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway
Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Aberdeen
NAACP Harford County

# PARTICIPANTS

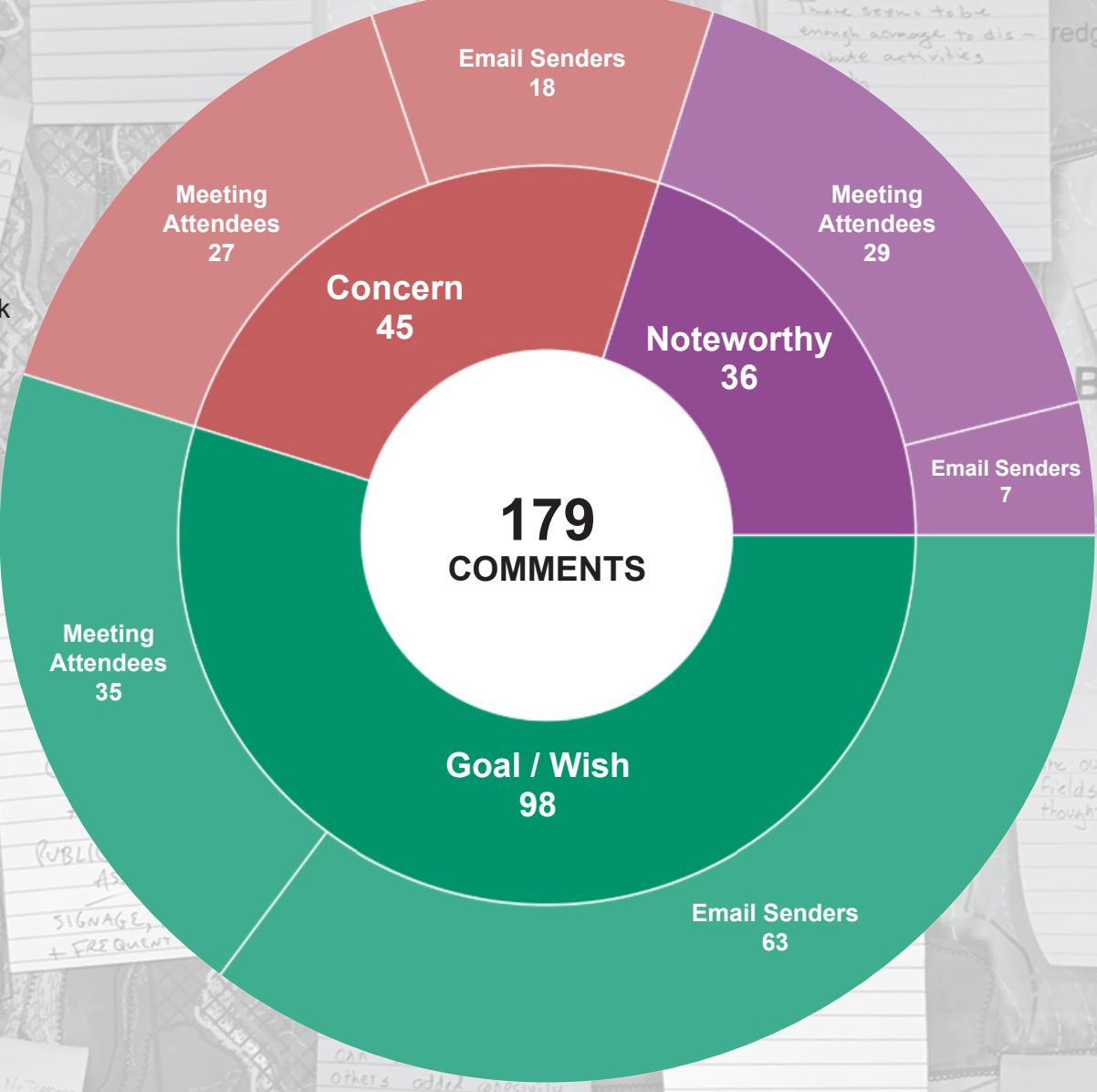
Public meeting attendees were asked to write comments on color-coded sticky notes for each of the three topics:

- Noteworthy: share an interesting fact about or personal experience with the park properties
- Goal / Wish: list 1-2 desired goals or wishes for the park
- Concern: list 1-2 concerns for the development of the park

The public comment period lasted from May 30, through July 15, 2024, and was accessed via a Harford County website link. The emailed comments were open-ended.

For the purpose of the information shown here, comments within each email were also sorted into the above topics.

The chart shown here provides a breakdown of the all the comments by comment type and participant type.

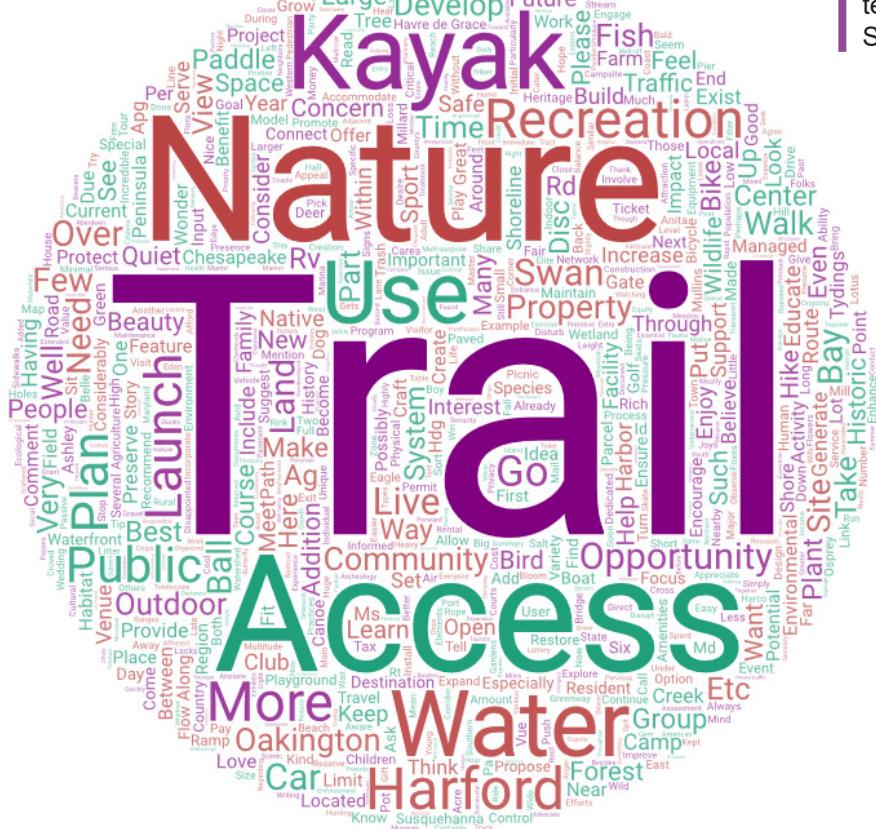


**COMMENTS**

TRAILS and paths for walking, hiking, BIKING; a land trail system throughout the properties and a CONNECTION to regional trail and greenway systems

CONCERNS regarding the negative IMPACTS of too much TRAFFIC, increased park visitation, and the associated DISTURBANCE to the natural features and wildlife habitats.

ACCESS to the WATER, shoreline and waterfront views - opportunity to provide the community with more accessible experiences of SWAN CREEK and the Chesapeake Bay



Word cloud created using all in-person and emailed comments. The top 3 most frequent words of "park," "area," and "county," were removed to increase impact of remaining common words.

Text size reflects the frequency of the word or phrase. Text color does not relate to any other data.

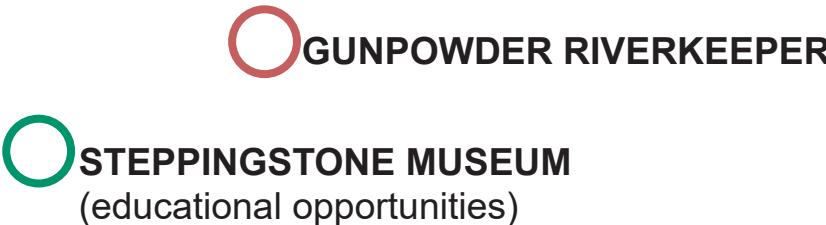
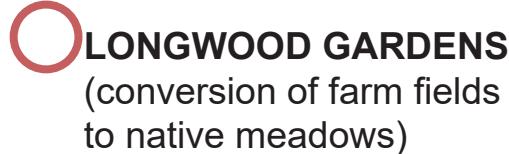
SHARING the peninsula's HISTORICAL significance from pre-colonial times to today; celebrating the peninsula's history and sharing its STORIES (particularly those related to Belle Vue and Swan Harbor Farms)

CONCERNS regarding MISSING VOICES in the public outreach process, specifically from surrounding neighbors, Ashley Treatment and other adjoining property owners.

PROTECTING and PRESERVING the NATURAL resources and ecosystems of the Oakington Peninsula properties, with EDUCATIONAL exhibits and programming to encourage stewardship; Several requests for the creation of a NATURE CENTER on site

OPPORTUNITIES the park system could provide for RECREATION such as KAYAK launch sites, water access points for fishing; many requests included indoor/outdoor recreation facilities and disc golf.

## COMMON THEMES



Many participants included in their comments examples of places they have visited that incorporate park features they are interested in becoming part of the Oakington Peninsula Park System.

Others provided recommendations for potential resources or partnering organizations for the planning and implementation processes of the park system’s development.



## EXAMPLES & POTENTIAL RESOURCES



# **PUBLIC MEETING & COMMENT PERIOD**

## **RECORDED COMMENTS**

# NOTEWORTHY

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

Source	Comment
M	Are outdoor large area fields a part of thoughts
M	Bald Eagles and Swan Harbor is awesome
M	beauty, biodiversity, disc golf
M	Beavers are destroying these woods killing many trees (sticky note place on map along SHF's N/NW property corner at north end of non-tidal wetland area)
M	convenience to towns/population south/east of I95 potential for outdoor recreation
M	Cool houses on the shore. We should leave some area for development. Maybe this would help pay for it.
M	Could safely create a bike trail from HdG to APG
M	Disappointed to hear about limiting access and traffic. Sad to think elderly and special needs folks cannot visit these beautiful locations
M	Frustrated by spurious No Tresspassing signs on County Park property after all - it belongs to all of us. Mullins Park, Eleanor & Millard Tydings Park
M	I like the peace & quiet
M	It is a property rich in indian ancestry. Many arrow head and artifacts have been found there
M	its accessibility along Rt. 40... Could take advantage of that for public transportation to reach underserved communities along Rt. 40 kayak the shoreline of these properties on a weekly basis
M	1st priority protection 2nd priority water access point for canoes & kayaks
M	Kayaking along the shoreline we see eagles, ospreys, geese, ducks, turtles, foxes, deer. The lotus flowers at Swan Creek are spectacular.
M	Large variety of wildlife, migrating birds and native plants. Living on Country Club Rd, we enjoy the quietness and solitude of the area. We do not want any increased water traffic on Swan Creek. We want the native habitat of our furry neighbors left untouched. Lots of trails = need for parking. We don't want to see forests become parking lots.
M	MD Agricultural Education foundation - office located at Swan Harbor Farm - non-profit - mission "to promote the importance of ag in everyone's daily lives" - "home" of 4 mobile science labes, 2 Ag showcase exhibits - would love to have an Ag education center!
M	Prehistoric cultural evidence throughout the peninsula Water orchid growth in Swan Creek Replanting white oak & American chestnut & white cedar (sticky note placed on map at southern tip of peninsula)

M = Meeting Attendee E = Email Sender

# NOTEWORTHY

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

M quiet; historic charm; views of water

M scenic view

M watershed  
preservation of the land for recreational purposes

M the bike/walk loop trail

M The Bike/walk trail from HdG

M The park (Swan Harbor) is a very relaxing place. I visit the model airplane park many times a week.

M Thrilled to read that the concept of a walking-biking trail from HdG to Swan Harbor is still under consideration with the easement after Clark Rd. This reestablished also the link between HdG racetrack and veterinary services at Swan Harbor Farm in past years

---

M Unique access to wonderful water features  
- shoreline

M - birds  
- water lily  
- smooth water paddling

---

M variety of wildlife

M Invasive Plants impact on trails.  
Hand launch boat areas Swan Creek & Bay Shore  
Parking? For kayakers, canoeists

---

M Ashley Treatment

---

M Chesapeake Bay views!

---

M The property is beautiful & not crowded.

M The property is accessed only by vehicle; no paths from residential areas  
The public is unaware of the extent of this property

---

M Terrific wedding venue - super well designed.  
Peepers at night

---

Noteworthy" comments from email senders can be found within the "Goal / Wish" comments on the following pages.

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

## Source Comment

M 1 DISC GOLF!!  
2 Outdoor hockey rink  
3 skate park  
4 marina  
5 fishing docks  
6 bicycle pump track  
7 mountain bike trail  
8 lacrosse  
9 historical information  
10 wood carving  
11 nature center  
12 kayak

---

M An interconnected walking/biking path to tie all unique parts of the park system together.

---

M At Nottingham, PA near Herr's Potato Chip Factory there are a series of outdoor pavillions that can be used for family occasions. Our family has held a family reunion there for at least 45 years I am aware of.

---

M championship level disc golf course to benefit Harco residents and drive tourism from out of state

---

M disc golf

---

M Education facility w/ ag history, ag literacy, ag education exhibits, missions, etc.; outdoor classroom, ag story trail, ag walking trail, ag history - Belle Vue / Swan Harbor; \*destination for youth and adults to learn about Ag\*

---

M Engage communities as over-arching goal.  
- educate on wetland harm from homeowners & how they can help (Bay)  
M -accessibility for underserved communities  
- preserve what is naturally there  
- no cars in park, perhaps tram or public transport thru park

---

M enhances the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. Living shore. Nature trail - no pavement (don't want)  
M Regenerative agriculture  
Learning center for preservation.  
NO DOG PARK

---

M I have high hopes for a bicycle/walking path that will eventually link Oakington Peninsula with Perryville and beyond and possibly Aberdeen and Perryman via Susquehanna River Pedestrian bridge and easement

---

M I would love to see a model similar to Heavenly Waters Park in A.A. County. It is also a linear park with many different kinds of features - something for all. However the addition of camping opportunities would also be great.

---

M I would love to see a safe, quiet kayak launch with adequate parking nearby

---

M I would love to see an elite kayak launch with parking nearby to make porting easier. Ask to involve touring kayak community in the planning

M = Meeting Attendee E = Email Sender

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

In no particular order: Bike path from Havre de Grace downtown or promenade  
Swimming area  
Kayak launch  
M Ban all motorized water crafts  
Noise pollution enforcement (no blaring cars or motorcycles)  
lots of walking trails  
Underground railroad history information & memorial

---

M kayak & canoe launch area on the bay, but NOT on Swan Creek  
M Birding areas  
Walking trails

---

M Kayak launch

---

M Kayak launch and paddle in camping area for people kayaking John Smith Trail  
M Easy access kayak launch and local parking  
Accessible viewpoint on Swan Creek

---

M Kayak Launch Area  
NO BALL Fields!

---

M Kayak put in  
M Hiking trails  
Bike paths

---

M Kayak/paddleboard access with nearby parking for ease of portage.

---

M Keep Model Airplane park!!

---

M limited acces to avoid high impact issues.  
limit night time activity.

---

M Nature Center  
Therapeutic Rec

---

M Nature center; hiking trails; kayak launch; picnic area; natural areas / preserved areas; osprey nests / observation areas; water access for walking along shoreline; better advertising

---

M nature trails - both primitive and paved  
M kayak/boat rentals  
primitive camping

---

M nature trails with dog park with water access, so they can swim

---

M Public Shooting Ranges, Rifle Pistol, Bow & Arrow  
Launching Ramp for boats  
Launching Ramps for kayak  
Fishing Piers

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

M Scenic walking trails connecting to Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway to the future shared use path from Aberdeen to Havre de Grace

---

M shore view (ie view out to the bay)

---

M simple canoe & kayak launch  
some areas with no public access

---

M Solid promotion SO ALL OF The People of COUNTY KNOW ABOUT THE PUBLICLY-OWNED ASSETS. SIGNAGE, Advertising, and FREQUENT PROMOTIONS

---

M The whole property to be accessible by walking, biking, and handicap accessible.  
A kayak launch  
A trail connecting Havre de Grace with the property  
Historical & environmental display of information available to walkers, bikers, kayakers

---

M To have the property NOT consume large amount of tax dollars.

---

M Trails

---

M walking & biking trails with as much natural land as possible. Providing access for others to enjoy the park but not over developed.  
Water access is a must as HC lacks access to the Bay.

---

M Would like Equestrian Center with trails  
M Would like playground with "Kompan" equipment for all ages and all abilities  
Fitness trail with challenges

---

E I read with interest all the comments offered at the meeting, and agree with comments saying preserve the natural habitat for wildlife and birds, and honor the history of the land (ie no ball fields!) Given Maryland's equestrian interest (racing, polo, eventing such as at Fair Hill) what about a softer use option such as equestrian trails, as offered at the wonderful and well-used Sweet Air park for example?

---

E I also agree with the importance of having walking trails for people. Exercise in nature benefits all.

---

E As a former teacher, I support the comment of offering educational opportunities for students, like the one at Steppingstone museum for example. I like the idea of incorporating the history all the way back to include Native Americans.

---

E I own a residence [in] Havre de Grace MD.  
E I believe this is a once in a generation opportunity. Due to rapid development of the western shore of the Upper Chesapeake Bay I believe this could be one of the last opportunities available to benefit the public. I hope the Harford County officials and their planning team will be able to craft this parcel into a mixed use park which contains: public use areas, wildlife areas, and a natural waterfront.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

E I think about the preservation area in Rock Hall and wonder if some of the same ideas could fall in line with what you have discussed. That area seems in line with the idea of relying on the natural habitat without investing a lot into man made structures. They do a nice job of using walkways, either bridges to walk across the land that is above the land slightly and lets you have a great view of the natural habitat. They had butterfly reserves near the water, after walking to the end of one pathway you ended up at a butterfly reserve area where the flowers created a natural habitat for butterflies. Charles county - the point also has some beautiful ideas, where nature is the focus, just placing seats along the water where people can sit and look at the water is a nice use of space. Sometimes less is more kind of thinking:D

With such a large amount of land, the possibilities seem huge. I can't wait to hear more and see what direction the project takes.

---

E A disc golf course would be a perfect option for this piece of property. Look forward to discussing more the benefits and low costs to install a course for everyone and all skill levels.

I believe strongly that a waterfront rustic trail system would be an ideal feature for this property. Should work to preserve the beauty of the area. I am also unsure whether the coast has enough protection for recreational waterfront access, as there is so little of it due to the Proving Grounds in HarCo.

E Additionally, as a kayak enthusiast, a small craft launch into Swan Creek would open up a rather rare feature of the creek to kayaks and canoes-the lotus flowers, which bloom in the summertime. Usually, one would have to launch from APG, first needing visitor approval, etc., or launch from HdG and paddle a good hour or so just reach them. They are a hidden gem of HarCo.

---

I am a big fan of the proposed Oakington Park System!

E I am an avid nature-lover, hiker, photographer, and wannabe-birder! I grew up in Harford County and returned six years ago. One of the main appeals for me in returning to Harford County is the nature and parks offering - but there could always be more! Particularly along the water. This area holds such rich history - a park system that preserved that and opened it to the public would be an incredible opportunity to learn more and preserve that history for future generations.

As younger generations are becoming more and more influenced by technology, opening up more parks and encouraging outdoor recreation is vital for well-being and flourishing! (see "The Anxious Generation" recently released by Jonathan Haidt). Furthermore, as Harford County continues to grow, having more options for greenspace is also essential to the local population.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

I live [near] Mullins Road. One of the motivations for buying this house was living outside of a development and having green space as I look out my front porch. Based on the Mullins Park previous use, I have always imagined that it would be incredibly unlikely that the land would be turned into retail or residential property-something that is very important to me. The Susquehannock Wildlife Society in conjunction with Harford County and the University of Maryland extension program frequently come out to this property to conduct research on native and invasive species of flora and fauna and my wife and I have spoken with the people many times about the potential future of this property. We have always hoped that the dream of turning this into a park that helps protect the critical and vulnerable species found within would one day become reality.

E

Hearing that Harford County is looking to turn this area into a park for public use is wonderful news. One of the great joys of Harford County is the green space-from forests to wetlands and in between. I commend County leadership for the vision and foresight to protect such a large tract of ecologically important land so that future generations can enjoy the splendor and beauty that makes Harford County special. I look forward to being able to enjoy a responsibly managed park with trails and other features that highlight the inherent natural beauty.

---

...as a resident of the area, I wanted to share my support for this project.

I feel as though we are severely lacking in walking trails on this side of Harford County. Bel Air has the very long and very accessible Ma & Pa trail. Instead of driving 20-30 minutes out of my preferred area of the county I would be so happy to drive a short distance for these resources.

E

I would like to provide some additional input to consider:

- A mostly flat walking/running trail along the edge, as outlined in the proposal. This would be a great way to boost the physical health of local residents.
- A non-motored water vessel launch.

I use a paddle board and kayak. It would be great to have a free launch nearby to be able to explore new areas of the bay.

E

---

I am a lifetime Harford County resident. My family owned the farm next to Swan Harbor. I grew up on Oakington Road, I think a park system would be a wonderful use for the area. We need more trails and parks in Harford County. No more warehouses.

E

I am a Harford county resident who appreciates the outdoors and wants to preserve more of it for passive recreation. I enjoy walking with friends and observing nature including bird watching. I feel it should be developed simply with minimal impact and consideration to maintaining or improving the biological diversity of the area. Keeping Swan Harbor for social events but not over expanding potential people/traffic/parking impacts. It is a destination for outdoor enjoyment.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

In my view, a major goal for the park system should be protecting undeveloped space in this county which is quickly becoming deforested. Protecting wetland and forest habitat, especially for birds and other native species. Perhaps even reforesting or returning more land to natural state.

E I would love to see most of the area restricted for lower impact activities such as nature hike and historic trails (could be done with a downloadable audio tour to minimize signage). (As opposed to heavy-traffic ball fields and playgrounds)

Use any building construction to showcase green techniques such as water capture, green roof, etc. Inspired by The Vollmer Visitor and Education Center at Clyburn Arboretum in Baltimore. It reduces environmental impact with composting toilets, a "living" green roof, and geothermal heating and cooling.

---

E I am writing to support the development of Oakington Park. In light of the rapid development in our county, I feel that preservation of natural lands are critical to enhancing the life balance that characterizes our county. Contiguous tracts of land are obviously also critical for the survival of our native flora and fauna.

---

E Be sure that trail and bicycle paths are included. Connection to Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway has to be continued.

---

E One suggestion I would like to suggest for consideration would be an RV Park. We ourselves are RV owners and often stop at an RV park located off interstate highways. They have hookups for water and sewage. The electric is 35 and 50 amps. A lot of these parks cater to RV's, and other types of campers. They usually have access to trails, fishing, dog parks, etc. There is a smaller RV park called Bar Harbor not far from the proposed park system. But it cannot expand... The RV market could use a park that has the amenities you are considering... I know it would be a welcome place for people who travel up and down the east coast. We as locals would enjoy it to. It sounds like an exciting venture this county would use, enjoy and generate income as well.

---

E I believe this park should be unique compared to others of the same on the East coast. Besides the regular walking and bike trails it could have a learning farm. What's produced can go to food pantries or have designated days to pick your own. Any extra could go to a produce stand where any extra money made can go toward supporting the park. Concert venues would also be a great addition.

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

It was a pleasure to read the site assessment report and related documents for the proposed Oakington Peninsula Park System. Thank you to all involved for your dedicated hard work. Thank you for the opportunity to provide community input.

While I want to heartedly endorse comments in the plan about limiting public access on portions of this property, managing first and foremost for wildlife, retaining site income, and opportunities for hiking trails, I have more specific comments about water access.

I would like to advocate for a water access site for non-motorized boats as a key component of the site design. I would agree with comments in the current planning documents about locating any such site along existing roads and already disturbed areas. The launch site should be very simple, no more than a twenty-foot stretch of sand or gravel beach. Even large groups of kayakers are accustomed to launching only a few boats at a time and I would be concerned about a larger cleared ramp area placing more demands on site management.

It is important to have immediately adjacent impervious parking for at least twenty cars, though I suspect that on a typical day, only a few of those would be in use. A well-maintained port-a-pot would be an asset and help protect the resource. I would assume any access roads

E would be gated and that there would be limits to the access hours. A two-way gate system with the exit gate having some sort of "no back up" protection might relieve management burdens.

Access at Oakington, would provide incredible paddling opportunities for all of the types of boaters mentioned. The immediate shoreline is beautiful, Swan Creek a treasure, particularly when the Lotus are in bloom. The islands around the Fishing Battery are a major attraction and those looking for a longer paddle can explore the waterfront of Havre de Grace, travel upriver to Garret Island or cross the Susquehanna to access Furnace Bay. Paddlers currently access these areas through the busy Tydings Marina boat ramp. The new ramp option would reduce pressure on the Tydings ramps, particularly important with the upcoming loss of the Roberts Park ramps due to bridge construction.

While I have mixed feelings about this, the paddling potential is so rich in this area that the community could choose to promote this site as a regional paddling destination. The pure motive would be to expose as many people as possible to the incredible natural resources of Harford County and the low-impact and healthy joys of nature exploration through paddling. The history of the associated properties would be a major attraction to this user group. There is also a significant overlap between those with birding and paddling interests.

E I am a Harford county resident who appreciates the outdoors and wants to preserve more of it for passive recreation. I enjoy walking with friends and observing nature including bird watching. I feel it should be developed simply with minimal impact and consideration to maintaining or improving the biological diversity of the area. Keeping Swan Harbor for social events but not over expanding potential people/traffic/parking impacts. It is a destination for outdoor enjoyment

E This is a great opportunity to add many wonderful additions to Harford County, personally I would like to see one area dedicated to an indoor-outdoor sports facility.

Every weekend, Harford County residents are traveling to other counties, or Pennsylvania to play tournaments and taking their money with them. It's also in the right area of the county for hotels etc and is convenient from 95.

E The use of the site should focus on passive uses, birding, hiking, biking and kayaking.  
A kayak launch with rentals would be great as there is no kayak rental in the HdG area.  
Consider converting farm fields to native meadows. See Longwood Gardens as a great example.  
As I think you pointed out in your comments, greater bike and pedestrian access is vital. It would be a great destination for biking but from HdG, one cannot get through the industrial zone. Route 40 and Robinhood road are undesirable pending building of the dedicated bike lane on Route 40. Provide a safe Route 40 crossing into the park.

E I support the creation of the Oakington Park System. Public access to the land is a top priority.

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

E I would love to see a swimmable beach and marked off fishing areas when you revitalize the area.

E I suggest an area designated for archery hunting. Pretty [Boy] reservoir and Loch Raven have areas in them that hunters and hikers coexist.

---

My husband and I would encourage you to include a kayak launch site with facilities. This is especially important since APG has eliminated the facilities at their Swan Creek site and tightened up access for non-military kayakers. Such a lovely place to kayak needs more access!

Another important suggestion is to consider the environment when paving parking lots and/or sidewalks. Please use pervious materials to control water flow to the creek/bay and also to filter out some of the salt and chemicals from drainage.

---

E This area should be for quiet, nature-centered activities only.

---

My primary support for Oakington Park is for consideration of a permanent disc golf course. As many in our community are aware, this sport (and recreational activity) has grown substantially in public interest over the last 5-8 years.

In addition, Harford County has set itself amongst the elite destinations for the sport. Courses such as Scarboro Hills and Mill Brook are considered some of the best in the region. Certainly a hallmark course at Oakington Park would continue to support that regional draw.

Disc golf is a recreational activity that promotes health and well-being by getting residents outdoors and amongst nature. These courses have a very low impact on land use, and do not typically have a noticeable impact on traffic or parking demands. It is affordable for both capital construction costs as well as ongoing maintenance needs. Often, we find that volunteers provide labor needed to keep up maintenance.

E

So, disc golf where my primary support lies. Understanding this project has complex considerations, I also support most of the common themes presented in the Focus Group meeting. Establishing a nature walk and trail network here would give the public an opportunity for outdoor recreation and environmental learning. These lands are an incredible asset to add to Harford County's already strong list of outdoor experiences such as Eden Mill and the Anita C Leight Estuary Center.

---

Establishing a network of trails and paths along the Chesapeake waterfront through Swan Harbor toward Havre de Grace and connecting to the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway should be a goal of the project. This also is a low-impact pursuit which will enhance our storytelling of Harford County's rich past while giving access to a gem of property.

---

E Our comment is to develop the park into a system that can integrate with existing infrastructure and develop a green multiuse path space between Aberdeen and Havre de grace.

E

This can appeal to high income owners by allowing for green commuting to APG and safe pedestrian and bicycle access between the two incorporated areas.

---

E

My main feedback for this proposed project is to ensure the addition of multi-use singletrack and double track gravel trails to connect all of the areas together. The cycling community, especially, has an interest in pedaling their way around the county safely. If it's possible to link these sites with a network of hiking/biking trails, that would be a great way of bringing more people to the area to observe and enjoy the spaces described in the plans and maps.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

E please consider adding an executive Par 3 golf course. There are none in Maryland and this would be a great public attraction for all ages, especially new comers and younger children. If there is not room for 18 holes, do 9 holes. You can also add lighting as night golf is becoming popular which increases the growth/profit potential for a venue like this.

---

E I'm an avid disc golfer and a member of the Harford County Disc Golf Club. We (the club) are growing and disc golf is a wonderful activity that people of all ages can play. we need good, well maintained, and challenging courses to meet the new and future demands.

During the spring, summer and fall, we paddle at least twice a week along the shoreline from Tydings Marina to Swan Creek. Along the way we see a multitude of wildlife; eagles, ospreys, geese, ducks, turtles, foxes, deer and even once a coyote. It is often serene and magical. Swan Creek is beautiful all the time, but especially so when the lotus flowers are in bloom. An accessible site would allow the larger community the opportunity to share this resource.

E When we launch our kayaks from Tydings Marina we defer to the power boaters and do our best to get on and off the water quickly to stay out of the way. It would be fantastic to have a quiet safe kayak launch within the new park. It doesn't need to be particularly large since we get on the water a few at a time and wait for one another before taking off. Kayaks can be heavy so a place to unload them near the water and parking nearby would be . Having a maintained port a pot in the area would make everyone more comfortable.

Several organized kayak groups travel from other places to paddle this beautiful area.

There are solutions to protecting the area such as a coded gate entry or timed entry and exits. We have seen a variety of systems and the areas where we travel utilizing them stay clean and safe.

Having this resource for wildlife and potential users who will benefit from exposure to the wildlife and being near and on the water is a gift. There are a multitude of possibilities for education and appreciation for folks of all ages.

---

E I have read the three docs posted for the Oakington Peninsula Park System Master Plan and your plans to minimize disruption of the properties is good to see.

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

The attaboy is for preserving the land/water site and planning for its use. There could be a very interesting kayak/canoe trail if there was a southern landing/launch area. Historical markers could make it more interesting.

The, "Why can't we?", is would it not be possible to have a ticket-access swimming beach somewhere within the park. It still amazes me that Harford County has not managed to create a public beach on the Bay.

E There is also an equity issue here. Most of the new development is pushed into the Southern/Eastern Corridor. Most of the young children live here as well. This area is certainly less well-off than some of the northern/western areas of the County. There is little waterfront the public can call its own.

I presume there would need to be some way to protect such an area from over use. A first come, first serve, process without ticketing would mean lots of disappointment, possibly anger, at the entrance gates. In essence, a pre-paid (inexpensive) ticket for parking (up to, say, six, per car) could control the crowd size and limit disappointment. There may need to be some sort of ticket lottery to ensure fairness. There may also be a need to limit the number of times a family can go per year. Possibly there could be special multi-car passes for larger family gatherings. That would all have to sussed out through experience.

---

Some of the amenities included in the Roswell Park were:

Multiple walking trails with distance markers Plant labels identifying types of trees, shrubs, etc.

Child playground equipment

Adult workout area with associated equipment Ball fields - baseball, softball, soccer, football Tennis courts Open covered pavilions with picnic tables Scattered picnic tables along walking paths Multiple parking areas strategically placed to accommodate access to specific amenities

E Having all these amenities provided facilities that accommodate people of all ages and interests. As my wife and son's family did our evening walk we encountered seniors and young couples walking, children playing on playground equipment, organized and pickup ball games, adults doing chin-ups on the outdoor workout equipment, and teens jogging. I was impressed by how many people were enjoying the outdoor opportunity for exercise and recreation. The parking lots were almost full with cars coming and going.

When I saw the mention of Oakington in the county newsletter I immediately thought how great it would be to have a similar park in our Harford county. The esthetic benefits could be even greater since there would be access to the Chesapeake Bay.

---

Please support the creation of a park system out of Oakington Park as an open space. With all the new housing developments going on in Harford County, it is imperative that we keep some open, undeveloped areas.

E Having just traveled through parts of Spain, I was amazed of the sheer number of park systems within towns and cities. There were all ages of people riding bikes in dedicated bike lanes, families strolling on paths that wound around trees, ponds and meadows, and dedicated playgrounds for children.

We need to emulate that here, as a space for people to sit with nature and calm down from the phrenetic pace of our daily lives.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

The Havre de Grace Youth Commission is submitting the following recommendations for usage of the 1200 acres set aside for the Oakington Park System.

- Indoor multi-purpose recreation space to support the growing population across all age groups.
- Outdoor multi-purpose recreational sporting fields to accommodate a variety of outdoor sports.
- Recreational spaces that incorporate natural elements with educational and physical activities that appeal to all ages and abilities. Examples include treehouses, rope courses, sensory gardens, and bicycle paths.
- Create educational routes that include pollinator areas, watershed education and environmental stewardship while encouraging outdoor recreational opportunities.

We believe these recommendations are in line with the initiatives in both the 2016 Harford Next – A Master Plan for the Next Generation and the Harford County 2022 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (2022 LPPRP). These plans highlight the need for more recreational space to accommodate current and future population growth, a desire to support healthy communities and educational opportunities utilizing outdoor spaces.

---

I would like to submit the following recommendations:

- \*\*Indoor multi-purpose recreation space\*\* to support the growing population across all age groups.
- \*\*Outdoor multi-purpose recreational sporting fields\*\* to accommodate a variety of outdoor sports.
- \*\*Recreational spaces\*\* that incorporate natural elements with educational and physical activities appealing to all ages and abilities.

E Examples include treehouses, rope courses, sensory gardens, and bicycle paths.

- \*\*Educational routes\*\* that include pollinator areas, watershed education, and environmental stewardship while encouraging outdoor recreational opportunities.

These recommendations align with the initiatives in both the 2016 Harford Next - A Master Plan for the Next Generation and the Harford County 2022 Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan (2022 LPPRP).

---

E Please install miles of wide and level paved biking trails! There isn't any place within 40 miles for a nice long, easy bike ride. No cars, hilly winding mountain bike trails, or narrow walking paths included in these please! It's difficult for seniors to safely navigate around obstacles.

E I would like to see cruise ships and a roller skating rink for cooler seasons.

Having reviewed the Focus Group Summary and recommendations for further development of the Oakington Peninsula Park system I offer the following comments:

E

- The summary recommendations should include ongoing research about the history of the entire peninsula from pre-colonial times through the late 20th century, through documents, oral history, and archeological exploration.
- More emphasis should be placed on this large area's unique opportunity to provide a regional destination for tourists and multi-day visitors. This is best served by focusing on the natural resources, distinctive setting, and expansive historical uses of the sites.

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

...this important project that will safeguard our collective access to the Chesapeake Bay as well as preserve the historic and ecological resources of these beautiful lands.

While this is a master plan for all the public lands on the Oakington Peninsula, Swan Harbor Farm has been a public park for decades. Please consider self-nominating that park as a National Park Service Chesapeake Gateway site now with the ability to expand that designation to the other locations as this park system evolves.

To me, there are many overlapping stories in need of accurate interpretation within the Oakington Peninsula Park System. These include:

- Native Peoples
- Colonial land grants, i.e. large farm estates, agricultural practices
- Enslaved Persons, Indentured, and Free -- researched stories of individuals
- Historic structures and remnant cultural resources
- Mill-site archeology, stream and tributary archeology
- Connections to the Chesapeake Bay, colonial transportation networks
- Connections to the surrounding communities -- Swansburg, Halls Cross Roads, Havre de Grace, rural estates. This is a huge opportunity to connect with the colonial-era to 19th century setting that was lost to APG with its land acquisition during WWI. Please see Chris Weeks' book, An Architectural History of Harford County, Maryland for this region's context for interpretation.

The vast, publicly-secured properties are a huge gift that should allow for quiet recreational enjoyment through trail connections, fishing, kayaking, and places to convene with nature -- the views of the Bay are serene and stunning. I look forward to all these sites being accessed in a slow, unfurling kind of way, specifically when it comes to the southernmost tip at the identified Millard Tydings Park location as per your map. I also want to recognize how important the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation site could be as a central resource in the telling of the agricultural story.

---

The Harford County Department of Public Works (DPW) Watershed Protection and Restoration Office manages the County's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit compliance. The office staff hopes to partner with Parks & Recreation on planning and installation of environmental restoration efforts at the Oakington Peninsula Park System that would help meet the County's MS4 permit pollution runoff requirements.

The addition of Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) would complement the park amenities and provide essential ecological benefits. Harford County receives MS4 credit for stream restoration, upland stormwater management, and a variety of land cover conversion best management practices, such as forest planting (0.5 acres or greater with an un-mowed understory), riparian forest planting (within 100 feet of perennial streams), individual tree plantings, and conservation landscaping/meadow creation using species native to the Chesapeake Bay region.

The Oakington Peninsula provides ample opportunity for these practices and for the public to engage with the County's environmental restoration efforts. We are asking you to please reserve portions of the property for environmental enhancement to satisfy the County's MS4 permitting requirements. Ecological benefits and MS4 credit opportunities are highest when BMPs are implemented within 100 feet of perennial streams, when expanding contiguous forests, and when planting adjacent to existing wetlands.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

I would like to see the land left alone as much as possible to be enjoyed by nature lovers. A regular dirt trail system would be nice. No bikes allowed. A kayak launch area would be great.

Perhaps one of the current existing buildings could be converted to a nature center. Lots of programs for nature learning such as birds, wildlife, reptiles, tree ID, plants and wildflowers ID and other environmental programs If local farmers are renting parts of the property for crops, allow this to continue so that people can see the crops up close and learn. Agriculture programs should also be a very important part E of this park system.

Look at Eden Mill and the Anita Leight center for help on planning ideas. They may have some good opinions to offer.

I would like to see this property kept in the current state. It has a lot to offer residence in reference to nature, agriculture and local historic value. If it is destroyed, we will never have it back.

---

Firstly, we propose the creation of an indoor multi-purpose recreation space. This facility would serve as a hub for various activities and programs, catering to the interests and needs of all age groups within our community. An indoor space would provide a much-needed reliable venue for year-round activities, ensuring that residents have access to recreational opportunities regardless of weather conditions.

E In addition, we recommend the development of outdoor multi-purpose recreational sporting fields. These fields would support a variety of sports and outdoor activities, promoting physical health and community engagement. By accommodating a number of growing sport activities, the fields would serve as a versatile space for our recreation committee programs to host league play, tournaments, as well as casual play, fostering a sense of community and teamwork.

We also suggest incorporating recreational spaces that blend natural elements with educational and physical activities. Examples include treehouses, rope courses, sensory gardens, and bicycle paths. Such features would create an inclusive environment that appeals to individuals of all ages and abilities, encouraging outdoor exploration and interaction with nature.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

The county's acquisition of the Oakington Peninsula property provides an exciting opportunity for increasing the recreational opportunities and environmental sustainability of Harford County's western Chesapeake Bay shoreline.

As a spokesman for the Chesapeake Paddlers Association, Inc., a 700-member non-profit sea kayaking organization comprising paddlers all over the Chesapeake region, my comments mostly pertain to the opportunities for increased water access in this area.

There are relatively few water access points to the Bay in the northwest corner represented by this shoreline, and their importance transcends interests of the citizens of Harford County, extending to Bay lovers from around the region. The focus group included kayaking and canoeing under "Recreation" and water access under "Facilities" needing special consideration in the development of plans for the parcel and I heartily concur in their conclusion.

...any small craft launch areas would probably best be sited in the Mullins Park or Millard Tydings parcels. The Mullins Park parcel shoreline is mostly precluded by the presence of tidal wetlands and the muddy nature of the substrate there would probably also make a small craft launch impractical. That leaves the Millard Tydings parcel, particularly in the area of the long spit forming the northern

E mouth of Swan Creek as the most favorable area to site a small craft launch area. The shoreline immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the open field in the Millard Tydings parcel, where the spit joins the main peninsula on the Bay shore might be the most fruitful area to survey for suitable launch locations.

We have documented nearly 70 such paddle-n campsite opportunities around the Chesapeake Bay and it would be highly desirable to add an additional opportunity in this corner of the Bay, where few currently exist. Paddle-in campsites can be considerably more primitive than other kinds of camping. Few amenities (tent space, picnic table, fire ring, possibly a porta-potty or composting toilet) are needed compared with more substantive development for RV or even car-based tent camping. Whether adjacent to more developed camping or in a separate site, they should be limited to a short haul from the water to be useable by small craft campers.

I encourage Harford County planners to continue to seek public involvement as the site assessment and planning process continues. I especially encourage you to seek out informed input from the paddling community in all phases of water access siting and facility planning to avoid unfortunate choices that can preclude actual use by the paddling community such development is intended to serve.

---

I was not involved in any of the previous meetings and would like to share information to help preserve the peninsula, especially Belle Vue farm.

E

Also I believe that it is imperative that a caretaker be installed in the house at Belle Vue before it deteriorates any further and restore the landscape allowing easy access to the shore from the dwelling.

---

# GOAL / WISH

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the development of a recreation plan for the Oakington Peninsula Park. This project provides a wonderful opportunity to not only protect valuable Chesapeake Bay frontage but also tell the story of the historic and environmental resources that are part of the County's history.

E On behalf of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway, I would like to express our support for the development of a plan that tells the story of this area, while also providing opportunities for passive recreation. The inclusion of a trail network that could become part of the Lower Susquehanna Heritage Greenway trail network would provide an unparalleled opportunity for users to experience the many stories of the Lower Susquehanna watershed and its importance to the Chesapeake Bay.

I would also like to encourage you to include the National Park Service's Chesapeake Bay Gateways program into the plan for this property, with the goal of self-nomination in the future.

---

In addition to the few suggestions you received at the meeting, we wanted to share a few more:

1. Skate park
2. Water park
3. Fitness park (including apparatus that is user friendly to the 55+)
4. Dog park
- E 5. Playground
6. Teen Center
7. Outdoor movie theater
8. Cookout pavilions
9. Benches, Adirondack seating for lounging and reading
10. Nature sanctuary
11. Harford County African American History Museum (lots of grant and partnering options to bring something unique to the county, attracting tourists and celebrating heritage).

---

Please note: For the purpose of the quantities used to create the graphs on pages 1-2, some instances of "Goal/Wish" comments from email senders shown on the pages 8-22 were counted as more than one comment per email sender.

## Source Comment

- NO impervious surfaces! NATURE, not parking lots
- limit animals because of poop-runoff... or a must that it's picked up
- M - consideration of underserved communities... representation is not here, this should be a chance to engage all people (trail connected to bus stop!)
- careful considerations of disturbances to nature during construction and "operations"
- M Additional litter from increased human presence / activity
- M Concerned about taking some of best Ag land in the country out of production to make a park.
- M Concerns that the beautiful area would be overdeveloped with too much concrete and take away from the natural parkland.
- DO NOT ONLY LISTEN TO NATURE-SAVING EARTH EVANGELISTS. The park is ~4% of Harford County. It should be configured to serve everybody, NOT JUST PEOPLE WHO DESIRE TO PUT the enviro... Over the Humans who live here today and will live here in the future. :-)
- M ensure accessibility & market park so it's used!
- M I am concerned that to maintain the pristine areas of the park that access will be too limited. We are humans and to use the park we will need access with cars and parking. Examples of successful use with parking and roads Perryville Community Park and the Critical Area Driving Tour near Merkle Wildlife Sanctuary in P.G. County MD. Please don't make the accessible only to physically fit constituents.
- M I don't want park features that would lead to a heavy environmental impact, i.e. pavement overuse  
All age groups should be kept in mind, no children in work group is a concern
- M I have concerns regarding intensity of use near wetlands and coastal areas. There seems to be enough acreage to distribute activities widely
- M It is always a concern that people will party, disturb the wildlife and "trash" it.
- M Keep a buffer zone between the public areas, trails, etc and the existing neighborhood on Country Club Rd. We are out there becuz we like the quiet, rural nature of our neighborhood. Especially, we do not want...
- M limit over saturation of existing elsewhere opportunities; ie: Ensure genuine needs of community  
PARKING
- M Locals not contacted [to provide input]; try direct mail
- M Low Impact use only; hike & bike trails, kayak/canoe only  
No Ball Fields  
Improve wildlife habitat  
Remove Beavers
- M My concern is that parking would be far away from kayak launch  
Want to protect Ashley  
I would like to see projects build on each other and connect to municipalities and APG

---

M	NO commercial development NO gun ranges, disc golf, pickleball courts, dog parks Respect the history, cultural heritage and environment Repeat Anita Leight Environmental Center
M	Not a hunter, but believe you will need support from hunting community to control deer and protect forest.
M	Overdeveloped - too many uses - trying to please everyone Adequate funding
M	security throughout park areas
M	The speed of initial development - It should not take years to removed the no-trespassing signs. Please get some single trails open soon.
M	This is great as long as it doesn't interfere with plans for similar park in Perryman
M	Traffic concerns - pot holes
M	- limited access - bridge at Gashy's Creek - emergency road service
M	Traffic to the area, the roads in are not that large.
M	trash; wildlife; cutting of trees; invasive species
M	Will it be an incremental plan to add areas that can be used and others added cohesively
M	Need to be careful of site archeology. How to know these special areas of concern.
M	That the parks remain isolated from public use.
M	That the park is only accessible by vehicle. That the park alnd loses its environmental & historical importance from being over developed.
E	I believe if the county is broke as you say it is and we can't afford to pay teachers, build new schools, or already promised buildings for law enforcement then we can't afford a 1200 acre park and it's maintenance.
E	We already have several properties that are supposedly parks that are just sitting, hardly ever used. There's a lot better use for our tax money. Susquehanna park was supposed to be a big deal since the 60's. A few people fish there and some camping happens during a few months of summer, but that's about it. Swan Harbor Farm has some folks flying model airplanes and wedding venues, oh boy. Now the country has spent a ridiculous amount of money to purchase the Davis farm. Crown Jewel? Yeah right. Another waste of taxpayer dollars.
E	No more warehouses.
E	opposed to heavy-traffic ball fields and playgrounds
E	While there is no question that a growing park would put pressure on the neighboring communities, there are obvious financial benefits and more subtle benefits to consider.

---

---

Despite the large amount of public land down there, it does not feel like public space. The only real access point is Swan Harbor Farm. All the rest feels like private property.

- E Because it is the only accessible point, the use of Swan Harbor farm as a wedding venue also detracts from the area as a public space. I have visited a couple of times with out of town guests and was not permitted down to the waterfront due to an event. It was explained that our presence would spoil the pictures of the wedding party.
- E Another important suggestion is to consider the environment when paving parking lots and/or sidewalks. Please use pervious materials to control water flow to the creek/bay and also to filter out some of the salt and chemicals from drainage.
- E We do not need any ball fields or the like in this new area. There is plenty of that scattered around the county already.

---

There is also an equity issue here. Most of the new development is pushed into the Southern/Eastern Corridor. Most of the young children live here as well. This area is certainly less well-off than some of the northern/western areas of the County. There is little waterfront the public can call its own.

I presume there would need to be some way to protect such an area from over use. A first come, first serve, process without ticketing would mean lots of disappointment, possibly anger, at the entrance gates. In essence, a pre-paid (inexpensive) ticket for parking (up to, say, six, per car) could control the crowd size and limit disappointment. There may need to be some sort of ticket lottery to ensure fairness. There may also be a need to limit the number of times a family can go per year. Possibly there could be special multi-car passes for larger family gatherings. That would all have to be sussed out through experience.

The Elk Ridge Park comes to mind as a somewhat successful model.

The one concern is that there is a need to expand the forested area, even at the expense of some of the agricultural land. I have spent quite a few days fishing the Swan Harbor Park pier. One of the joys there is watching Osprey, Eagle and other water birds. The view across the Bay is magnificent.

- E That said, Swan Harbor Park is not at all family-accessible. It simply is not a place to "take the kids".
- No matter what ultimately is done to the Oakington area, making it more accessible to the public will put pressure on the wildlife. I think the best way to offset some of that loss, will be to increase the amount of land going back to nature.

Any trails, be they by land or water, will put pressure on the water's edge. That is where people (and wildlife) want to be. A wider forested corridor will give wildlife more options.

As a fisherman, I know that even trails slightly inland will soon have short side-trails to the better fishing sites. So, even if there is a plan to limit water views along any planned trails, it will have to be monitored. Good planning though can make that easier.

Urban planners often say the best way to plan sidewalks is simply to build the necessary buildings then see what paths naturally are worn by pedestrian traffic. Put the sidewalks there.

That works. But it does not ensure any pristine natural settings. Rehobeth Bay (Delaware Seashore) park has signs and warnings not to go into various areas due to nesting bird sites. Some of that is seasonal. Something like that may be worth considering.

---

I feel there is already a viable park in my area (Swan Harbor Farm). Expansion of these areas, with attendant traffic and congestion would ruin the natural setting for the wildlife. My home is on Country Club Rd and since the closing of the golf course the area has gone wild.

E This area has become a haven for wildlife. Even our road with minimal traffic disrupts the animal's movements.  
Oakington road has enough traffic without encouraging even more, not to mention trash and illegal dumping. Farming areas should be kept for farming.

---

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed conversion of the Oakington Peninsula to the Oakington Park system. While we appreciate efforts to enhance recreational opportunities, we have several concerns about this project.

1. **\*\*Increased Traffic and Pollution\*\***: The additional traffic generated by new walking trails is likely to increase pollution. This could significantly degrade the quality of life for residents who value the current tranquility of our community. Connecting the entire property means more traffic and more litter. We are currently contending with dumping of couches and mattresses besides normal every day road trash. Also, since it is a dead end cul-de-sac with no turn around area, we have numerous vehicles and even the occasional semi tractor trailer that gets stuck. We had one such incident where they wiped out our mailbox, our well, and demolished our front yard.

2. **\*\*Environmental Impact\*\***: The increased car traffic and human activity will disrupt the local habitat, affecting wildlife such as coyotes, foxes, wild turkeys, deer, rabbits, a multitude of bird species including bald eagles, ospreys, and owls. Protecting these species is crucial to maintaining the ecological balance in our area. As our community is bordered by water (Swan Creek and several tributaries) and many plant species, we are concerned about the toll it will take on those special natural resources.

E 3.. **\*\*Safety and Security Concerns\*\***: The summary intimated that this will be a “regional destination” and with proximity to major routes of travel (Route 95 and Route 40) this raises serious concerns. The information provided mentioned potential campsites as part of the plan. The amount of human traffic also carries the accompanying risk of crime. We are on well and septic in this area. Will the County be bringing in public water and sewer to accommodate the influx of visitors? Who will incur the cost of the improvements? The presence of transient individuals could also pose a security threat to our residents, not to mention traffic and pollution created at campsites. And who would be responsible for that cleanup?

4. **\*\*Privacy for Treatment Facility\*\***: Ashley Treatment Facility, which is sandwiched between the proposed area, values its privacy and seclusion. Increased public access and traffic could compromise the privacy essential for the facility's operations and the well-being of its patients. I find it highly unusual that no mention was made about Ashley nor their opinion.

As a county employee, I am highly concerned that I did not find out about any meetings until it was too late. At the very least, the county could have reached out by mail to the approximately 40 tax paying citizens of Harford County that are going to be drastically affected by these new plans.

Given these concerns, we urge you to reconsider connecting the properties and find alternative solutions that balance the need for recreational space with the preservation of our community's character and safety. We humbly ask that any educational and historical elements be restricted to specific locations, not connecting it to other parts of Tydings Park. We are in support of creating a educational/historical venue to learn about Belle Vue Farm, just like we support having a beautiful wedding and event venue at Swan Harbor Farm, but we are vehemently opposed to additional or extended paved roads/trails and camp sites that hurt our ecosystem.

---

E Please no ball fields or basketball courts or playgrounds. These items are already all over the county.

---

# CONCERN

THIS LIST INCLUDES THE CONTENTS OF EACH STICKY NOTE OR PORTIONS OF EMAIL COMMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS TOPIC

---

Overall, I think your office has conducted a very comprehensive assessment of the area and appear to be taking the impact of future development on the natural environment into considering during the planning process. I can see and appreciate the economic and environmental win/win relationship in developing this area. However, as a resident of Oakington Manor (Country Club Road), I'm disappointed that this community wasn't asked for input, or even made aware of the planning process.

E While I don't speak for this community, several neighbors and myself are very concerned about the increase and flow of vehicular traffic and traffic control/management. There is only one way in and out of this area, so any changes made along Oakington Road impact us. There is a particular area of concern regarding traffic flow. There are two areas to Millard-Tydings park and Ashley divides those areas. I know Ashley rightfully places a high value on client privacy so they will want to keep the public as far away as possible. According to the focus group summary there are ongoing discussions with Ashley. Is anyone advocating for Oakington Manor? My concern is that there will be a serious push to leverage the full or partial length of Country Club Road to create a link between the two areas. That would have a very negative impact on this community, it would also run contrary to the concept of having natural walking and biking trails throughout the park.

---

Please note: For the purpose of the quantities used to create the graphs on pages 2-3, some instances of "Concern" comments from email senders shown on the pages 23-27 were counted as more than one comment per email sender.