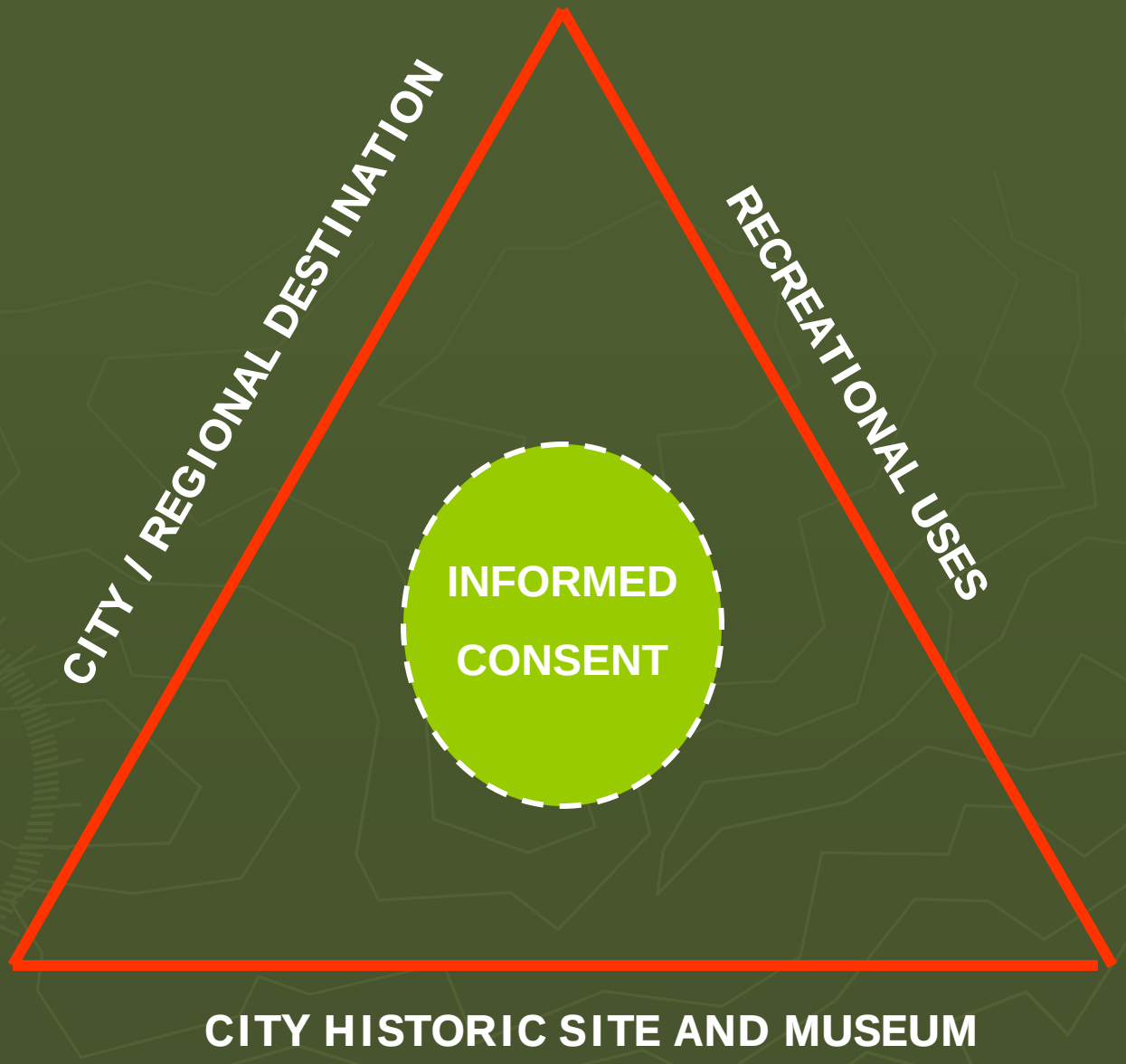
FORT WARD PARK

PROCESS UPDATE

Presentation provided to the Park and Recreation Commission on January 15, 2009 at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center to provide the Commission with an update on issues identified by staff and the public. Staff will be establishing two meetings in February to meet with community and City residents to address issues at Fort Ward Park.

G O A L S

- Define Uses of Park
- Challenges/ Interim Resolutions
- Informed Consent
- Master Planning Consideration


CITY / REGIONAL DESTINATION
RECREATIONAL USES
INFORMED
CONSENT
CITY HISTORIC SITE AND MUSEUM

FORT WARD PARK CONTEXT

FORT WARD PARK

- **EXISTING USES**
- **EXISTING CONDITIONS**
- **CHALLENGES/INTERIM RESOLUTION**
- **IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE**

Large Pavilion

Historically Significant Areas

Playground

Residential Adjacencies

Amphitheatre

Restroom 2

Reserved Picnic Areas

St. Stephens queuing

Cemetery

Grave sites

Restroom / Office / Storage

Parking Area 2

RPCA Horticulture Center

Fort Ward Museum

Parking Area 1

Reserved Pavilion

EXISTING PARK CONFIGURATION

PARK USES

- Casual Uses
- School Uses
- Athletics
- Special Events
- City Programming

PARK USE

CASUAL USES

- Reserved Pavilions
- Walkers and runners
- Playground users
- Picnics
- Special needs groups
- History Enthusiasts
- City Programming

PARK USERS

Schools

- Minnie Howard
- Hammond
- St. Stephens /St. Agnes

1. Regular Schedule Programs
2. Summer School Programs

- Amphitheatre Usage
- Museum and Historic Site Field Trips

PARK USERS

Athletic Field / Courts

St. Stephens / St. Agnes

- Soccer practice
- Soccer games
- Lacrosse practice
- Lacrosse games
- Tennis

City of Alexandria Public Use

- Youth / Adult Soccer
- Lacrosse practice
- Lacrosse games
- Tennis

PARK USERS

- Receptions
- Museum events
- Fort tours
- Historic groups
- Encampments / reenactments
- Summer Camp Programs
- Jazz Festival / Concerts
- Scottish Heritage Festival
- Weddings
- Sports Tournaments

LARGE CROWDS DURING HISTORIC EVENTS AND RE-ENACTMENTS

FORT WARD PARK

- EXISTING USES
- EXISTING CONDITIONS
- CHALLENGES/INTERIM RESOLUTION
- IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE

EXISTING CONDITIONS

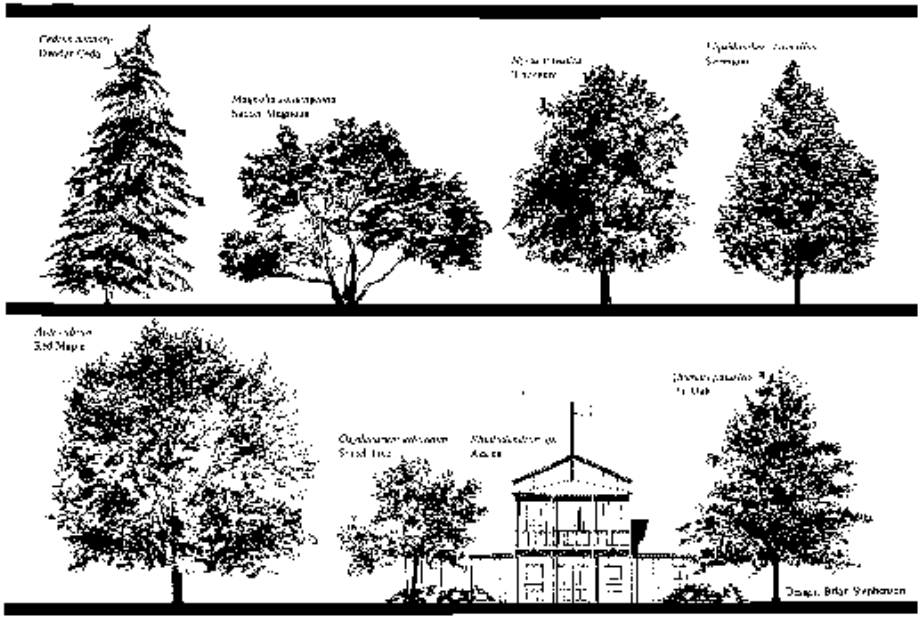
- Arboretum
- Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site
- Drainage Conditions
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Amphitheatre
- Pavilions
- Adjacent Community

1983 DESIGNATION AS CITY ARBORETUM

CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

ARBORETUM

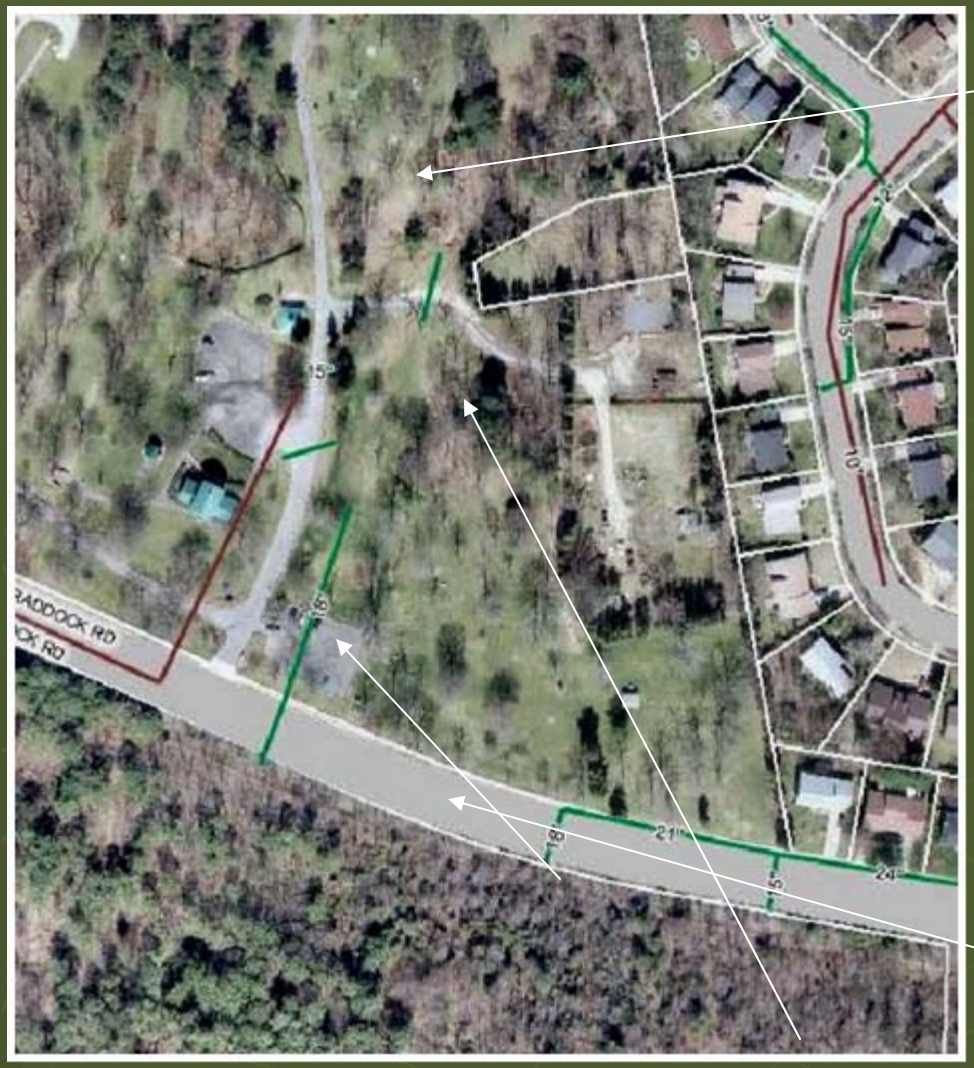
FORT WARD PARK



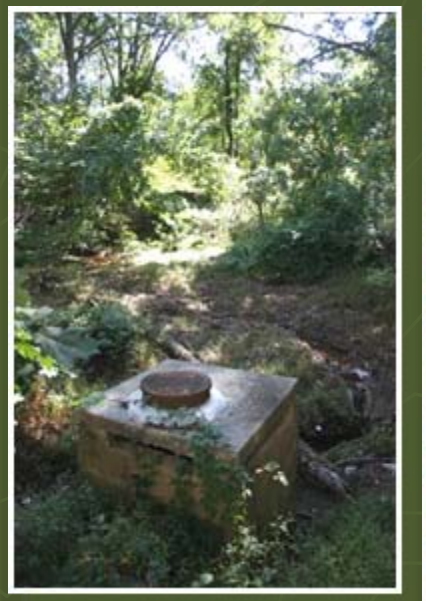
FORT WARD MUSEUM / HISTORIC SITE

- Museum
- Rifle Trench
- Officers Cottage
- Cemetery
- Bastions
- Earthworks
- Fort Site
- Unknown

MAP OF DRAINAGE



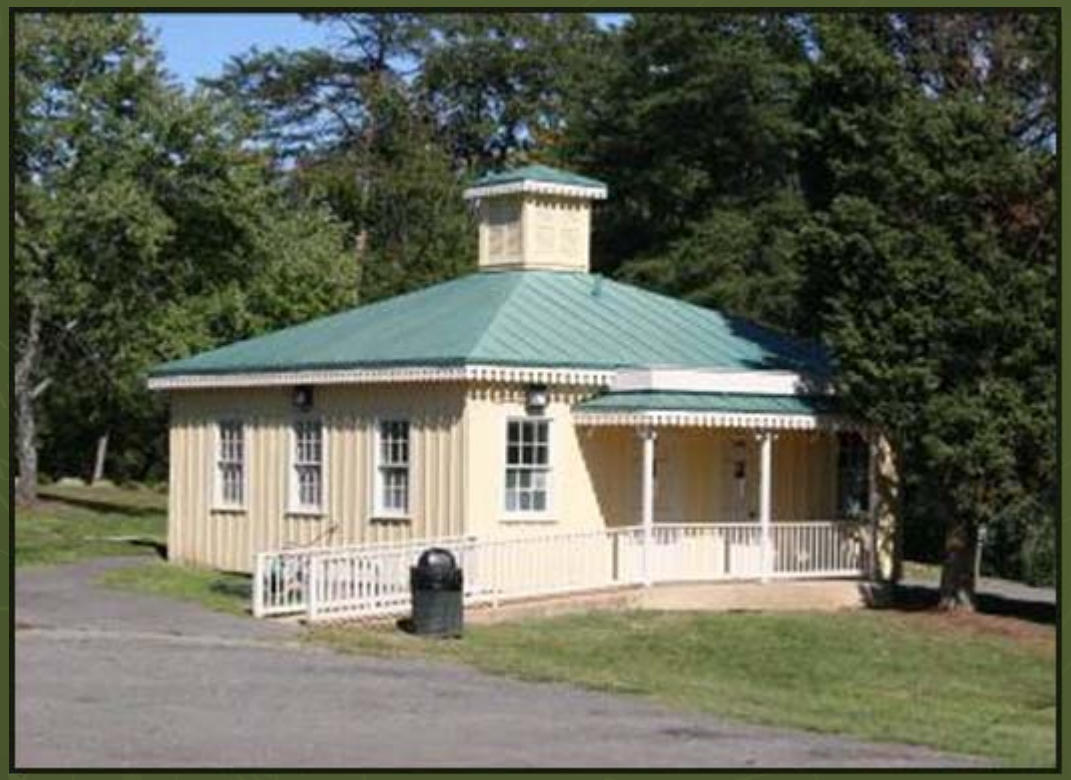
Water Continues toward Van Dorn St.



Storm Water Collected From W. Braddock Rd. into park

Area Prone to Flooding

RESTROOM 1



- Restroom Building
- Office
- Storage
- Pending ADA Improvements

RESTROOM 2

- 40 yrs. Old
- Unheated
- Poor Condition

AMPHITHEATRE

- Lighting Platforms
- Backstage Area
- Restrooms
- Storage Area

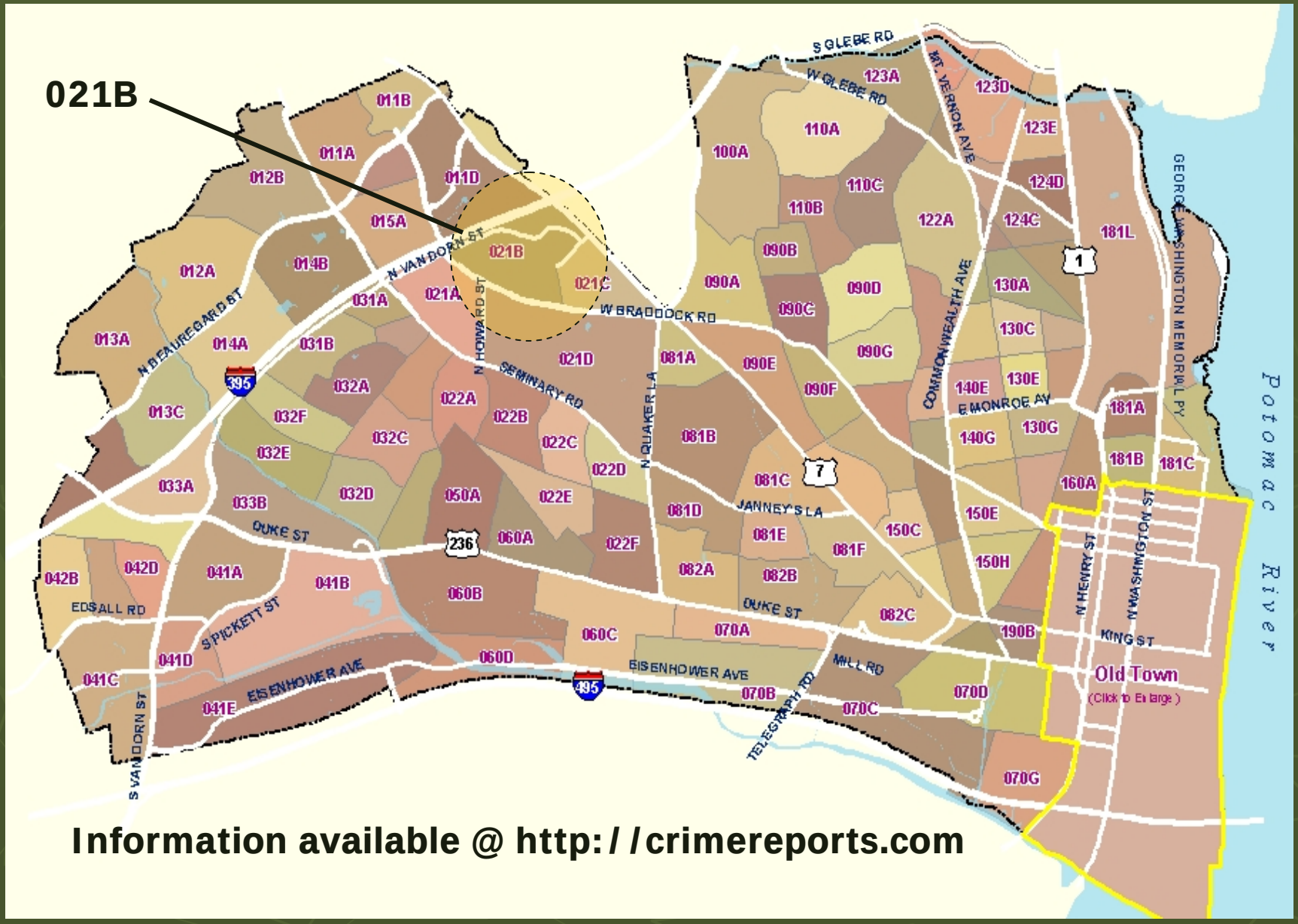
EXISTING PAVILIONS

- **Small shelter**
  Size: 16’ X 20’
  Seating:
  (6) 8 Person Tables

- **Large Shelter**
  Size: 33’ / 902sf
  Seating:
  (10) 8 Person Tables

EXISTING PLAYGROUND

POLICE DISTRICT MAP



Information available @ http://crimereports.com

FORT WARD PARK

- EXISTING USES
- EXISTING CONDITIONS
- CHALLENGES/INTERIM RESOLUTION
- IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE

CHALLENGES

- Overcrowding /Crowd Control
- Noise
- Trash Removal
- Restroom Facilities
- ADA Compliance
- Maintenance
- Beautification
- Historic Preservation
- Safety and Security
- Site Access
- Storm Water / Infrastructure Management

PARK OPERATIONS

- Mowing
- Leaf Removal
- Tree Trimming and Removal
- Horticulture and Nursery Center
- Watering and Irrigation
- Erosion Control and Grading
- Trash Pickup
- Cleaning and Restocking of Restrooms
- Scheduling and Monitoring of Sports events
- Rental Arrangements
- Security
- Building Maintenance
- Opening and Closing of Roadway Loop

FORT WARD PARK

- EXISTING USES
- EXISTING CONDITIONS
- CHALLENGES/INTERIM RESOLUTION
- IMPROVEMENTS TO DATE

IMPROVEMENTS 2007-2008

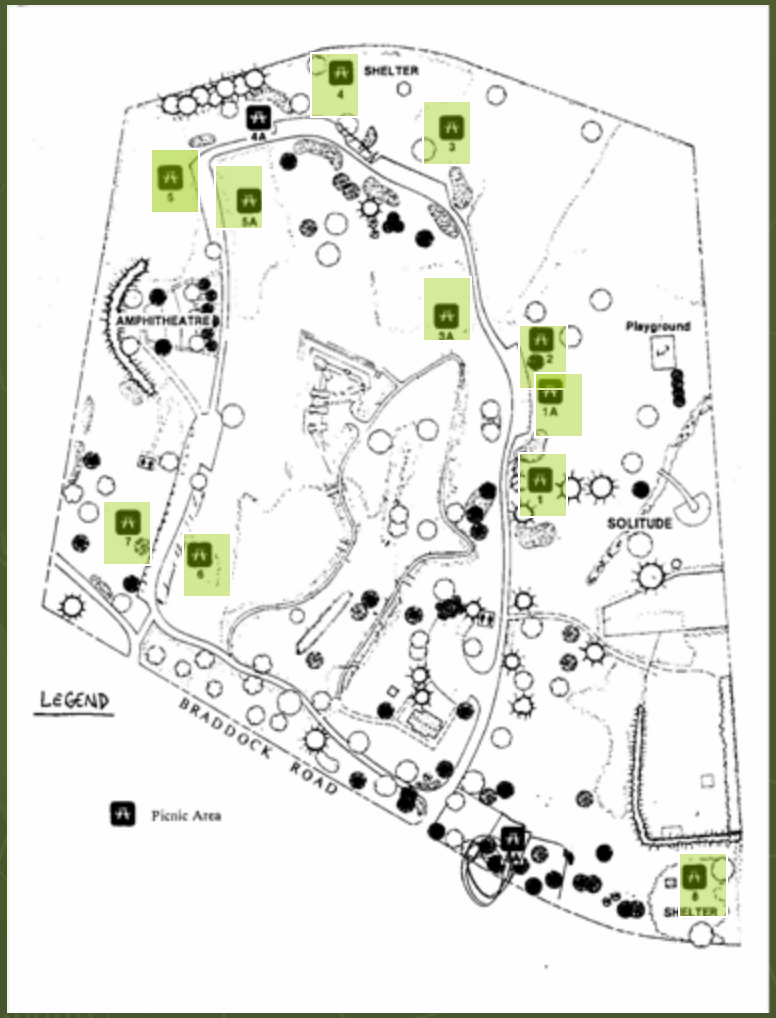
- Flora
- Revised Pavilion Rental Policy
- Reduction of Reservation Areas
- Security Booth
- Speed Bumps and Signs
- Information Kiosks
- Trash Enclosure
- Horticulture / Nursery Improvements

FLORA IMPROVEMENTS

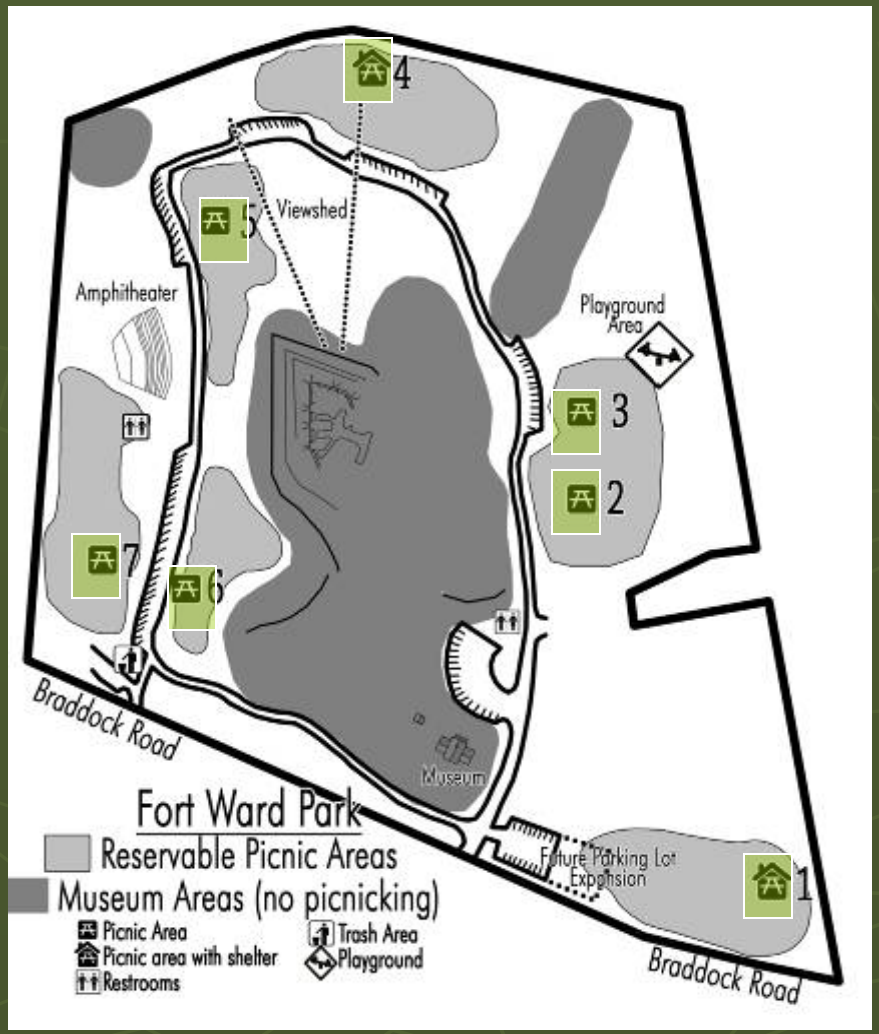
PROPOSED IMPROVED RENTAL POLICIES

- Revised Application Regulations
- Revised Enforcement rules.
- Alcohol Restrictions
- Parking will be designated and monitored.
- Staff to be assigned to monitor large groups.
- A maximum of five areas will be available.
- No amplified sound
- Rules of renting provided with application.
- Picnic area reservations required for large groups
- Applicants must apply in person
- No inflatables, dunk tanks, DJ's and Bands, etc.
- Vehicles must park in designated areas only.
- Park closes at 8 pm.

PROPOSED REDUCTION IN RESERVATION AREAS



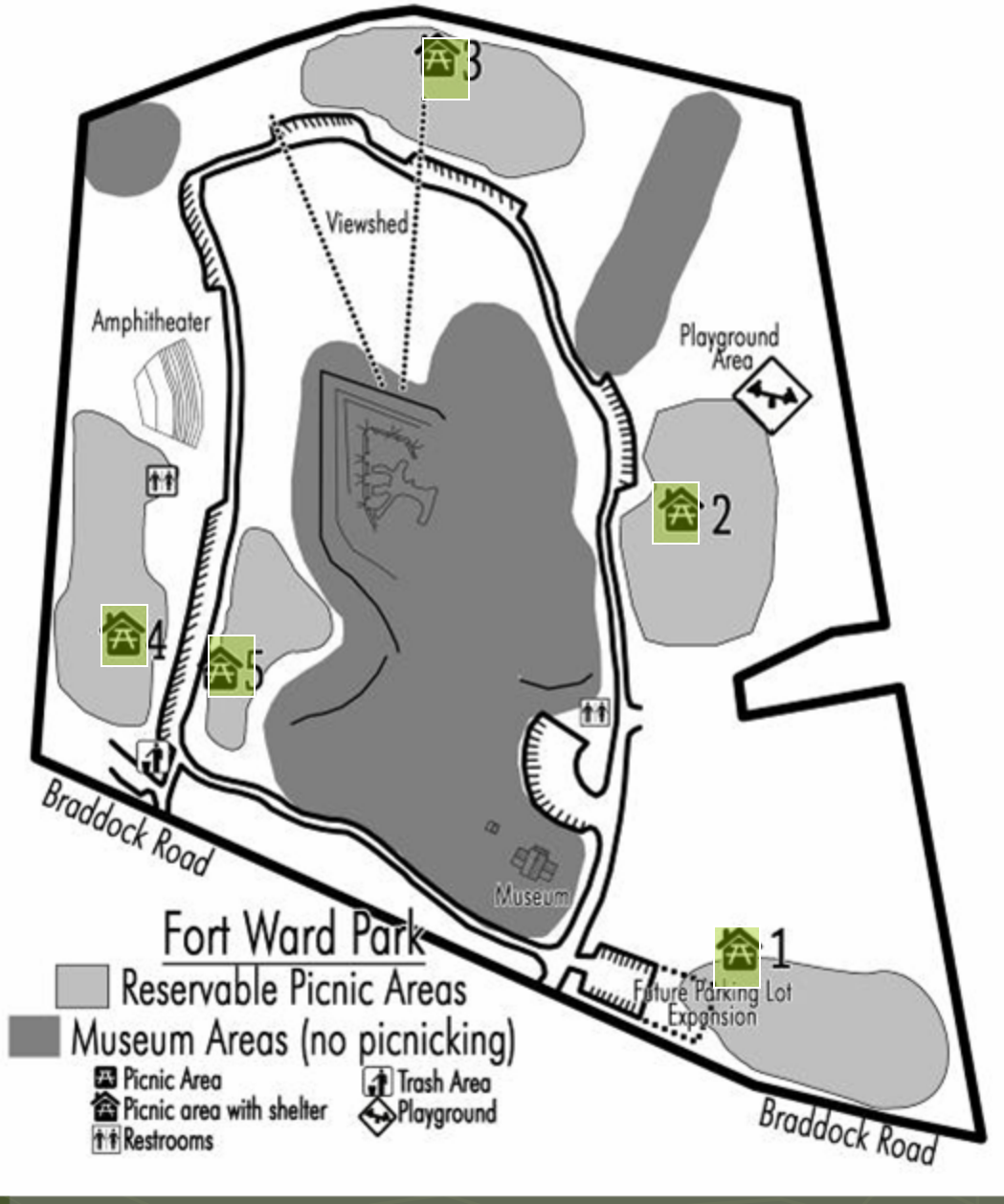
2007 map with 11 rentable areas



2008 map with 7 rentable areas

PROPOSED 2009 MAP WITH 5 PICNIC AREAS

RAM 16 x 24 MR



SECURITY AND CHECK IN BOOTH

PARKING BUMPERS

SPEED BUMPS AND SIGNS ON LOOP

INFORMATION KIOSKS WITH RULES AND TIMES

TRASH CONTAINER REMOVED FROM RPCA YARD

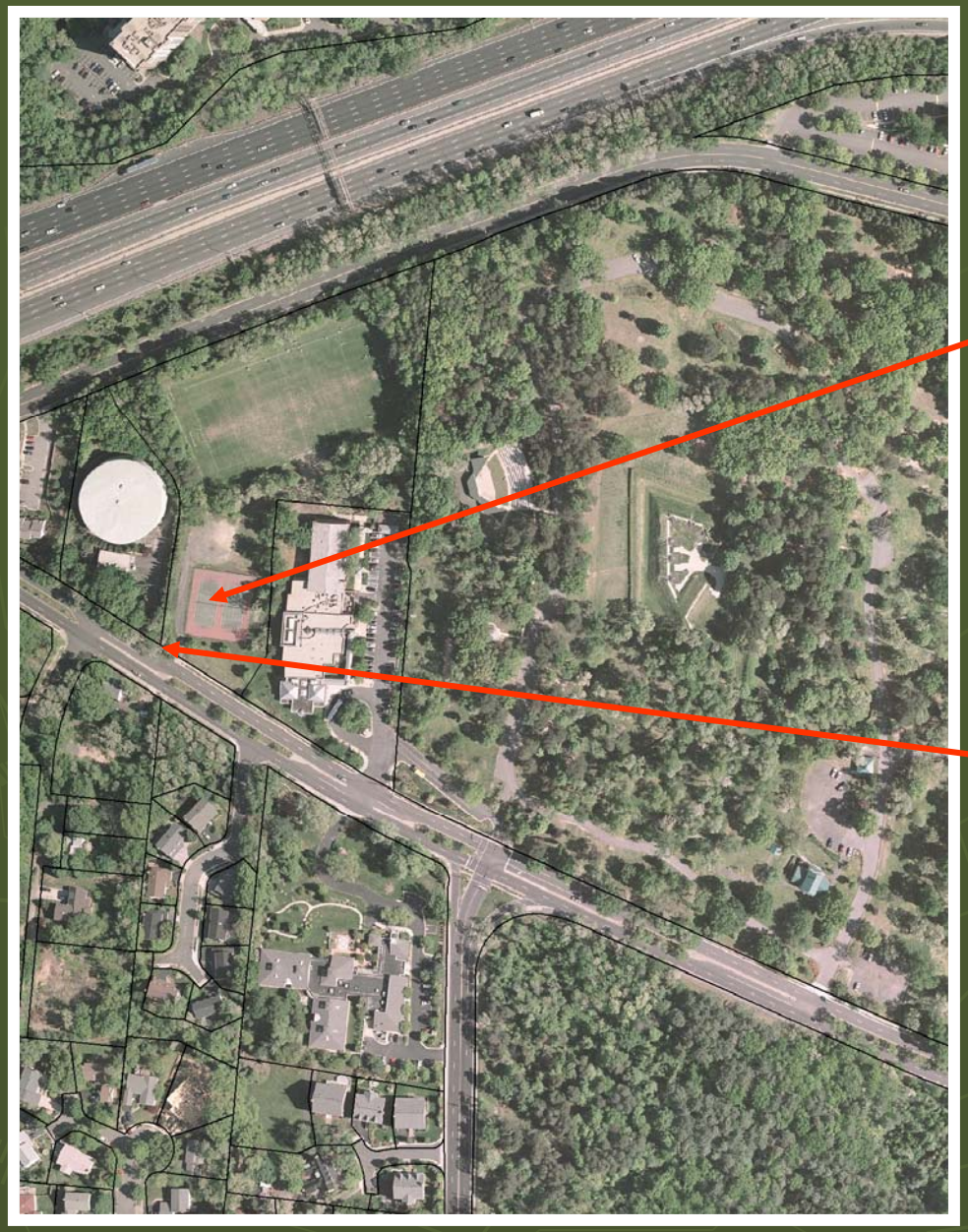
YARD IS FENCED AND CLEAN

VAN DORN
FORTWARD
BRADDOCK
BRADDOCK
HOWARD

RPCA YARD
W/ FENCE AND SCREENING

RPCA SHEDS

RPCA GREENHOUSE



Fort Ward
Tennis Courts

New Asphalt Driveway

FORT WARD ATHLETIC FIELD

Previous Condition

New Synthetic Playing Field

PLANNING GOALS

- Define Uses of Park
- Challenges/ Interim Resolutions
- Informed Consent
- Master Planning Consideration

NEXT STEPS

- Want your input – tonight on presentation
- Public Participation
- Prioritize Interim Improvements
- Implementation, Management and Strategy
  (Master Planning Process)