



# NOVA PARKS

Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority

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September 6, 2018

Ms. Nora Palmatier  
Chair, Urban Forestry Commission  
2700 South Taylor Street  
Arlington, VA 22206

Subject: Revisions to Upton Hill Improvement Plan

Ms. Palmatier,

I want to thank you for your August 29<sup>th</sup> letter about Upton Hill Park to Chair Katie Cristol, with a copy to me. For over two years, NOVA Parks has worked to coordinate this effort with both the neighboring Civic Associations and the Arlington Commissions who relate to this project.

We appreciate that the Urban Forestry Commission understands that we have worked to plan the improvements to avoid damaging the significant natural resources at the park. The upper parking lot and location for the climbing tower are previously disturbed land as noted in your letter. You also recognized that we made considerable efforts to protect the mature trees.

In your letter, you recommended that we work with the County's Urban Forestry staff to preserve more trees. In response to this request, we worked with County staff and have come up with a plan modification that will save 49 trees (35 living and 14 dead). The plan is to make the street parking along Wilson Boulevard time limited during the day. Having these spaces turn over during the day will allow park users to find street parking to access the lower area of the park. NOVA Parks will also create some ADA parking spaces along the street, allowing ADA accessibility to the shelter, playground and other features in the revitalized lower park area. This change will allow us to achieve the goal of a more inviting lower park area that the Civic Associations had requested, while eliminating the lower parking lot and vehicular access off of Wilson Boulevard.

City of Alexandria

Sean Kumar  
Scott Price

Arlington County

Paul Ferguson  
Michael A. Nardolilli

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Patricia Harrison  
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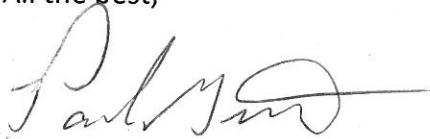
The Upton Hill Improvement Plan is a win-win for both the natural resources and the active users of the park. The creation of almost an acre of Oak/Hickory Forest with all the trees and understory to replicate this premium ecosystem of successional forests in our area, is a major ecological innovation. This approach far exceeds any requirement in the number of trees and the ecosystem creation. The upper parking lot, that serves the most active part of the park, will have a far smaller storm water footprint than the current parking lot. Again far exceeding any County building standards, this parking lot will have a number of low impact features, designed to retain and slowly release storm water. These features include both areas of permeable paving and a large underground cistern to capture storm water.

Upton Hill has long been a park with a combination of great natural resources and popular features for the public. This balance will continue with these improvements, making for a great urban park.

We greatly appreciate the partnership and dialog with the Urban Forestry Commission. Like the Park and Recreation Commission that has endorsed this project, your input has made for a better park improvement plan. We will continue to work with Urban Forestry staff through the implementation of the revised plan.

Thank you for the role the Commission plays in stewarding the forest resources of Arlington County.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Gilbert", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Gilbert  
Executive Director

copy: Arlington County Board