

Concept A Wellness and Mindfulness

Objective: To celebrate the rich history and cultural heritage of Quiet Waters Park through art and historical interpretation, making it a hub for cultural engagement in a natural setting. Key Features: • Cultural Heritage Trails: trails that highlight the historical significance of the land, featuring plaques, art installations, and reconstructed historical sites that tell the story of the park's evolution from farmland to a public space.

Key Features:

- Sculpture Garden: Expanding the park's existing sculpture program by creating a dedicated sculpture garden that features works inspired by the park's history and natural environment.
- Art @ the Park: A proposed large pavilion designed to enhance the Art @ the Park annual event by providing a dedicated gathering space for artists, visitors, and cultural activities. Positioned to highlight sweeping views to the south across the river and to the north within the park, the pavilion will seamlessly connect its artistic purpose with the natural environment, allowing for a visual dialogue between the artwork on display and the surrounding landscape. This thoughtful placement ensures that the pavilion not only serves as a functional space but also enhances the overall experience of art in nature
- Boat House Learning Lodge: repurposed historical boat repair building, into an educational hub where visitors can explore the area's heritage and engage with interactive exhibits. It offers both hands-on learning opportunities and passive exhibits, connecting the history of Quiet Waters Park to its current environmental and conservation efforts.
- Skywatch Grove: An inviting existing open clearing surrounded by trees, offering a serene space for visitors to pause, reflect, and observe the sky. Seating areas are placed in natural meadows to encourage group stargazing or individual contemplation, further enhancing the park's peaceful connection with nature.
- The Woodland Studio is an outdoor arts and crafts space nestled in a shaded part of the woods, offering tables where visitors can create art in a peaceful, natural setting. Nearby, the Crafting Cabin—a repurposed maintenance shack—provides storage for art supplies and serves as a hub for hands-on projects during workshops, as well as passive learning through small exhibits.

Stakeholder Alignment: This concept aligns with stakeholder priorities by focusing on education and conservation through the Cultural Heritage Trails and Boat House Learning Lodge, expanding cultural engagement via the Sculpture Garden and Art @ the Park Pavilion, and promoting low-impact, creative experiences with Skywatch Grove and the Woodland Studio, all while preserving the park's natural beauty.

Concept B Art and Culture in the Park

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Concept C Wildlife Sanctuary and Habitat Restoration

Objective: Create a sanctuary focused on wildlife protection and habitat restoration, with an emphasis on educational outreach to promote environmental stewardship. This concept prioritizes passive interaction with sensitive ecosystems like Loden Pond, preserving the area for conservation while providing educational opportunities for visitors.

Key Features:

- **Protected Habitat Zones:** Designated areas near Loden Pond and the South River where human activity is minimized. Observation platforms, such as the Proposed Pavilion with Environmental Overlook, allow visitors to engage with the landscape passively, with seating and gathering spaces designed to avoid disturbing wildlife. The pavilion provides a space for both individual reflection and small group gatherings.
- **Main Trail and Loop:** A 10ft paved main trail and loop utilize existing clearings and paths, offering accessible routes for all visitors. Spurred from this main trail is a network of minor mulch trails, which wind through various nature preserves, allowing for deeper exploration of the sanctuary's ecosystems without disrupting the environment.
- **Native Plant Restoration:** Large-scale removal of invasive species and reintroduction of native plants, with interpretive signage and guided tours. These efforts educate visitors on biodiversity and habitat restoration while minimizing human impact. Gathering areas, such as the Nature Kiosk connected to the Outdoor Classroom, offer passive or active learning opportunities focused on environmental education.
- **Wetland Restoration:** Restored wetland areas with boardwalks and interactive exhibits that educate visitors on wetlands' roles in flood control and biodiversity. The boardwalks provide small seating areas for quiet observation, promoting low-impact access to these sensitive environments.
- **Sustainable Picnic Areas:** Eco-friendly picnic spots integrated into the natural landscape. The picnic area along the trail and existing forest provides a serene spot for visitors, while another picnic area nestled within the meadow allows groups to gather in a peaceful, open setting. Both areas maintain a focus on sustainability and minimal disruption to the natural environment.
- **Council Ring:** A Council Ring situated in a natural tree clearing offers a gathering space for groups, fostering a sense of community and connection to nature. This area serves as a quiet retreat for reflection, storytelling, or group discussions in harmony with the surrounding forest.
- **Reforestation and Pollinator Meadows:** Opportunities for reforestation or the development of natural pollinator meadows along the main trails, enhancing biodiversity and offering visitors a chance to interact with nature in a passive, educational way. Designated seating and rest areas are provided to allow visitors to pause and reflect on the environment.

Stakeholder Alignment: This concept meets stakeholders' priorities of sustainability, conservation, and education by focusing on habitat restoration, accessible educational opportunities, and low-impact visitor experiences.

These three alternate Concepts are from Anne Arundel Department of Recreation and Parks and Transystems. The Concepts were prepared October 23, 2024 by the Department for the benefit of the QWP/Retreat Stakeholders efforts to envision the future development and conservation of the 19 acre addition.