

Recreational Objectives

1. To make leisure time more productive and effective.
2. To help train leaders in outdoor recreation skills.
3. To provide a place for the more re-creating types of outdoor pursuits.

THE RESTON CONCEPT

One of the serious problems facing America is the fact that almost everywhere development is far ahead of planning, particularly long-range planning of suburban areas. It is gratifying to see that the reverse is true in Reston, that planning is preceding development, and that radical new ideas in new-town development are receiving attention. New concepts in open space, the use of green belts, parks, contiguous areas of undeveloped land, and the desire to provide for maximum wildlife habitat are all being tried. These forward-looking approaches will be watched with great interest by planners, developers and conservationists, for it is entirely possible that here will be developed many new and useful guidelines for open space preservation, cluster housing development, and the proper use, maintenance and control of green belt areas.

If the Reston concept can be made to work and an effective nature center developed, then some far-reaching new forces in

social planning will have been clearly uncovered--forces that could have important repercussions in unit community development all over America, perhaps even in other parts of the world.

Some pointers, however, that Reston should consider in the development and maintenance of its open space lands and wildlife areas are these:

1. That all Reston open space lands, excluding the golf courses, be placed under a single management and control structure. This seems vital if areas of common ownership are to provide and foster the desired ends.
2. That it be recognized at the outset that the most perplexing problems of open space and wildlife development and use will be largely those of human management, not natural resources management.
3. That it be understood that local and transient forms of wildlife on the open spaces and green corridors will respond only to the extent that food, cover and protection are provided the various species. The mere fact that green islands and open space areas exist will not necessarily assure more wildlife. (See Appendix for detailed information on wildlife.)
4. That to assure the integrity of Reston's open space-- parks, green corridors, nature center land, camp

grounds--that an adequate and effective outdoor conservation education program be instituted and maintained on a continuing basis. Sound conservation attitudes and a sense of community pride and resource responsibility must be built into each generation of Reston residents.. otherwise threats to common open space in the form of vandalism, misuse and undesirable encroachment will continue to be a problem.