areas - and a series of east-west connections - perhaps fashioned from the systems along and between Lawyers, Glade and South Lakes (the east/west stream valleys) and along Sunrise Valley, the W&OD, a system from Lake Anne to Lake Fairfax, and along Baron Cameron. These two systems of major connectors should be 8 ft. asphalt paths. Next, all the origins and destinations of significance should be connected to this grid. Next, an overlay of connectors should be added to create a series of "recreational loops." Some of these may have special purposes such as the existing jogger's circuits. The special needs of some users such as equestrians should be recognized in these connections. Every cluster, every street should have a connection that allows residents to "go for a walk/or a ride" since this is the most frequent use of the pathway system.

Finally, it would be desirable to create a number of special purpose/destination trails. One in particular which the Committee recommends would be through South Reston's most spectacular natural and scenic areas. It would start at the Nature Center entrance parking area, traverse thru the South Nature Center, then down the Snakeden Valley (between Glade Drive and Lawyers Road) including the new link planned east of Lake Audubon Dam and connect to the W&OD.

From a point to the west of the first junction with the W&OD, the trail would loop thru South Lakes' streets and clusters (not now served by pathways), thru open space near the South Lakes Village Center and Thoreau dam, then past both lakes (to the extent possible) and back via the North Nature Center to the place of origin. This major trail loop would be made - up to the maximum extent possible - of

existing pathway elements. It would be made up of natural surface as well as paved sections.

This proposal by the Committee is one example of the scope of the fresh approach recommended for improvement of Reston's pathway system.

IIID. EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES PROGRAM

1. Introduction

Members of the committee's equestrian activities subcommittee studied and discussed with other residents the need for various types of equestrian facilities in Reston and concluded that an integrated system of equestrian facilities was desirable. Elements of this system include 1) a central teaching facility, 2) several satellite barns, and 3) an expanded trails network linking these elements with each other and with existing Fairfax County trails and parks.

2. Central Teaching Facility

The central teaching facility and core of Reston's equestrian program should be the Reston Avenue barn proposed in section IIIB of this report. The barn would serve as a physical focus for such activities as horse shows and trail rides in addition to providing a location for an equestrian education program. It would also serve as an organizational focus for residents who are interested in forming riding groups or who wish to keep informed about equestrian activities.

3. Satellite Barns

With horse shows, educational programs and other activities centered at the proposed barn, equestrian interest (which was diverted to numerous other facilities after the collapse of the old stable) will be likely to be refocused at the new barn, and interest in horse-related activities will increase. Consequently, demand for space at the Triple Crown Road pony barn could become greater than it currently is. For the first time in several years there have been regular vacancies at the facility which for a number of years had a waiting list. To accommodate this demand, the committee recommended acceptance of the Stuart Road barn as an additional RHOA-owned co-op facility with additional co-op barns planned as need is indicated. Due to declining interest in the barn use the facility will be torn down. The subcommittee investigated the feasibility of pony barns at the Polo Club Village and on Buckthorn Lane. Both of these locations were deemed unfeasible by the subcommittee.

4. Expanded Trails Network

The committee recognized the need for development of a natural surface trails system which would link the Reston bridle trail system to the various Reston horse facilities, the W&OD, and the network of Park Authority and county trails which surround Reston. In order to facilitate development of such a system, the committee recommends close coordination between Fairfax County, Reston Land Corporation and the County and Regional Park Authorities trails planners

in any future trails planning, particularly in as yet undeveloped areas such as parts of North Reston. It is essential that rights-of-way for these trails be located, dedicated and marked before the onset of development which might preclude their establishment. Continued maintenance of existing bridle trails is encouraged.

1. Background

As the committee began considering alternative uses for the three parcels it had been specifically charged to look at, the members realized that to make the best use of these parcels it was necessary to see what other open spaces were in the vicinity and what facilities they contained. The committee divided Reston into three sections: north, central and south. The north section encompassed the developing portion of Reston north of Baron Cameron Avenue; the central part was the area between Baron Cameron Avenue and the Dulles Access Road; the southern section included everything south of the Dulles Access Road.

2. Inventory

Table IIIA is a summary of the open space facilities and their general locations. The information was taken from the RHOA Pathway and Facilities Map and was supplemented by the Reston Fields Council, Fairfax County Department of Recreation staff and Land Use Committee members. The facilities in the north section will develop as the need for them arises in accordance with other development of this area. The committee noted that Reston Land Corporation plans for this area include a major open space/park/ recreation area west of Reston Avenue, as well as swimming pools, tennis courts, totlots and other "Reston amenities". These will be constructed as development proceeds in this area.

The central section included the future town center site. Part of the development proposal for this Reston focal point is a "town green" concept. Realization of this design element will provide a significant open space in this part of Reston. Committee members also recognize the significance of Lake Anne Village Center as community open space. This "urban" park draws large numbers of people who enjoy feeding the ducks, window shopping, or just sitting on the quay enjoying the sunshine, the lake and their companions.

With respect to the southern section, the committee noted that except for Polo Club Village, this part of Reston is almost fully developed. Therefore, available open space is virtually set with few options remaining for creating more. In addition to those facilities listed on Table IIIA-1, south Reston has an 18-hole public golf course and two lakes. While general lake access is limited, RHOA does have a public boat launch facility on Lake Audubon and completion of the South Lakes Village Center should make enjoyment of Lake Thoreau available to more Restonians.

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3. Observations

In the course of its study the committee uncovered a number of concerns specifically relating to the distribution of open space facilities in Reston. These concerns influenced their choice of options for the three parcel it was charged to study. However, members felt that the findings were important enough to the over-all utilization and design of Reston's open spaces to warrant their inclusion in this report. The rest of this section lists these findings.

- 1. RHOA facilities are used unevenly. In other words some totlots and fields are over-used, characterized by protruding rocks, non-existant grass, and no mulch. Other areas looked as though no one ever used them.
- 2. The heavily populated, high density area in south Reston bounded roughly by Reston Avenue, South Lakes Drive, Soapstone Drive and Lawyers Road, has no 10 foot high basketball courts and no significant playing fields.
- 3. There are few significant natural spaces in Central Reston.
- 4. The heavy use of the Temporary Road picnic pavilion suggests a need for at least one other such facility.

4. Recommendations

Based upon its findings, the committee has the following recommendations with regard to this facet of its study.

- 1. RHOA facilities which are under-utilized should be
 (a) moved to an alternative site or
 (b) made more attractive by adding amenities. Such
 - (b) made more attractive by adding amenities, such as multipurpose courts, picnic tables and trash receptacles, small pavilions, and so forth.
- 2. The county proposal for South Lakes Park should be supported, except that the Reston Fields Council proposal for two fields instead of the overlay fields should be incorporated into the plans.
- 3. The county and Hunters Woods School PTO should be encouraged and supported in any efforts to improve the playground facilities at this school. This recommendation and the previous one address the perceived need for larger, open play areas in this part of Reston.

- 4. RCA and RHOA should support and encourage Reston Land Corporation's proposal for a large park/recreation area in north Reston.
- 5. In addition to the picnic pavilion proposed for the Baron Cameron Park site, RHOA should construct a picnic pavilion with accompanying rest room facilities for the former stable site.
- 6. RHOA's work with the commercial/industrial enterprises along Sunset Hills Road and Sunrise Valley
 Drive to encourage re-forestation of portions of
 their properties should continue. These businesses should also be encouraged to provide other open
 space amenities for their employees. This effort
 could include joint ventures to provide one or
 more small picnic pavilions or mini-parks.

TABLE III E-1
DISTRIBUTION OF RHOA OPEN SPACE FACILITIES°

FACILITIES	NORTH	CENTRAL	SOUTH
Basketball/Multipurpose Courts	-	8	7
Ballfields & Playmeadows	, 5	7	13
Totlots - RHOA		5	18
totlots - Cluster		32	45
Picnic Areas	- 1	3	5
Pavilions	-	1	1*
Restrooms	_	2	2
Nature Areas	_	0	1
Golf Courses	-	0	1
Pools		6	8
Tennis Courts Sites		4	5
Garden Plot Sites	-	3	1
Community Rooms	1	1	2

These are RHOA areas only. For the locations of county facilities within Reston, refer to Section IIIA.

^{*}This is a small picnic area.

IV. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A. NORTH NATURE CENTER AREA

1. Background

The North Nature Center Area on Glade Drive has been the focus of a number of discussions and the subject of several studies and planning efforts. In particular, the Committee is cognizant of the April 11, 1981 Charrette, the public forum by the RHOA Council that followed the Charrette, the report by the Natural Area's Task Force dated May 18, 1982 and the results of the townwide opinion survey on open space needs. There has been concern expressed about the intensity of potential uses and a concern on the part of Reston Land Corporation that the site be used by all Reston residents either through RHOA or some other organization - and not left as a neglected parcel of land. The position of the adjacent neighbors and some concerned residents interpretation of the community wide survey has been to favor "low intensity" uses. The position of Reston Land Corporation has been that prior to turning the site over to the Reston Home Owners Association, a specific plan must be agreed to which provides for public use and benefit from the site.

From input that it received, the Land Use Committee determined that the view of adjacent neighbors and other concerned persons with the site, had evolved in the time since the initial planning Charrette. They now stated that they recognized the need for managing the forest resource and for the provision of facilities to support interpretive use of the site. The facilities and use in the north Nature Center area would facilitate RHOA staff presence and management on the site. The following sections outline the commit tee's recommendations on the North Nature Center's site.

2. Forest management

Intensive forest management should be undertaken on the site. Because of the volume of pedestrian traffic thru the area, the abuse of the area - building tree houses and underground forts - digging up native plant material, cutting firewood and other vandalism, and the impact of forest fires and erosion, forest management will be necessary. Forest management may include the reintroduction of native plant and tree species, and in other ways, helping nature to heal the impact of trespassing and vandalism. An active use program (education/nature study/passive outdoor recreation) on the site will assist in vandalism control and forest management by bringing RHOA staff, volunteers and others into the site on a regular basis.

3. An Entrance Feature and Parking Facility

Neither the South nor the proposed North Nature Center area has any off-street parking. Although on street parking is permitted on Glade Drive at this time, it could be terminated by VDH&T as traffic increases. An entrance or "arrival point" is needed for the the Nature Center so that visitors are aware of it and have an official "front door" entry point instead of various marked and unmarked paths.

This entrance should be attractive and well-landscaped and should contain a small parking area. It should be designed for 20 cars and have an asphalt all-weather surface for ease of maintenance, safety, and long-term cost benefit. The parking area should be built on the southern edge of the North Nature Center, with a strong visual and physical connection between it and the South Nature Center provided by a marked pedestrian crosswalk across Glade Drive, land-scaping and signage. This parking area could be located parallel to the roadway and would provide safe, visible, convenient access for all visitors without intruding into either the North or South Nature Center and negatively affecting adjacent residences. A secure bike rack, telephone, bulletin board/information kiosk, drinking fountain and a memorial sun dial could be suitable for this area also. (See sketch)

To further identify and promote the uniqueness of the site, entrance features should be placed at each entrance to the Nature Center from a major pathway. These features should clearly identify the uniqueness and intended purpose of the site so as to develop appreciation and respect for the site. The entrance features should be prominent enough to instill curiosity about the site from people on the pathways and create a sense of arrival. The entrance features should reflect the natural beauty of the site and remain in harmony with the environment.

4. An Outdoor Gathering Place/Inclement Weather Shelter

In order to make effective use of the natural features and interpretive facilities (pathways and teaching stations) in the north Nature Center and in the adjacent south Nature Center site, there should be constructed outdoor seating for at least 30 persons - a school classroom group would be a convenient maximum number to plan for. Shelter should be provided in the event of sudden inclement weather as well as secure storage of 50 to 100 sq. ft. and a staging area for educational programs undertaken in the Nature Center. The gathering place/shelter should be located near the parking on Glade Drive in the most ecologically resilient and least diverse area. The gathering place/shelter and the parking should be designed in harmony with the site to minimize impact on the natural flora and fauna.

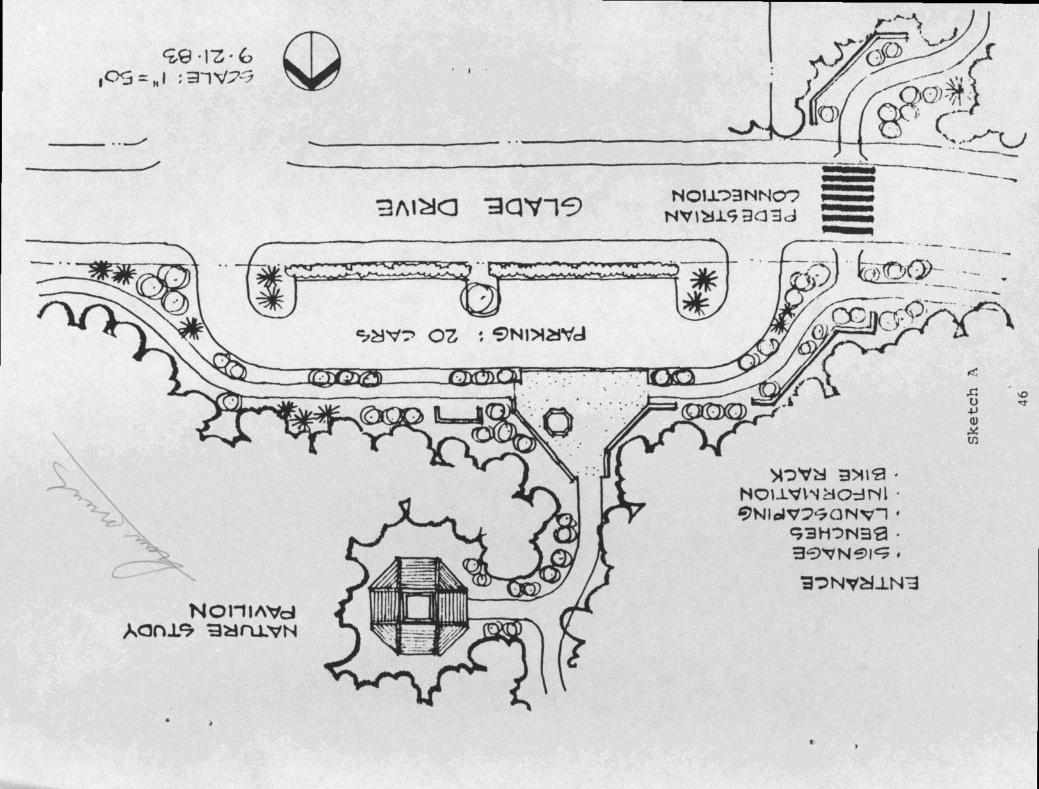
5. Pedestrian Circulation

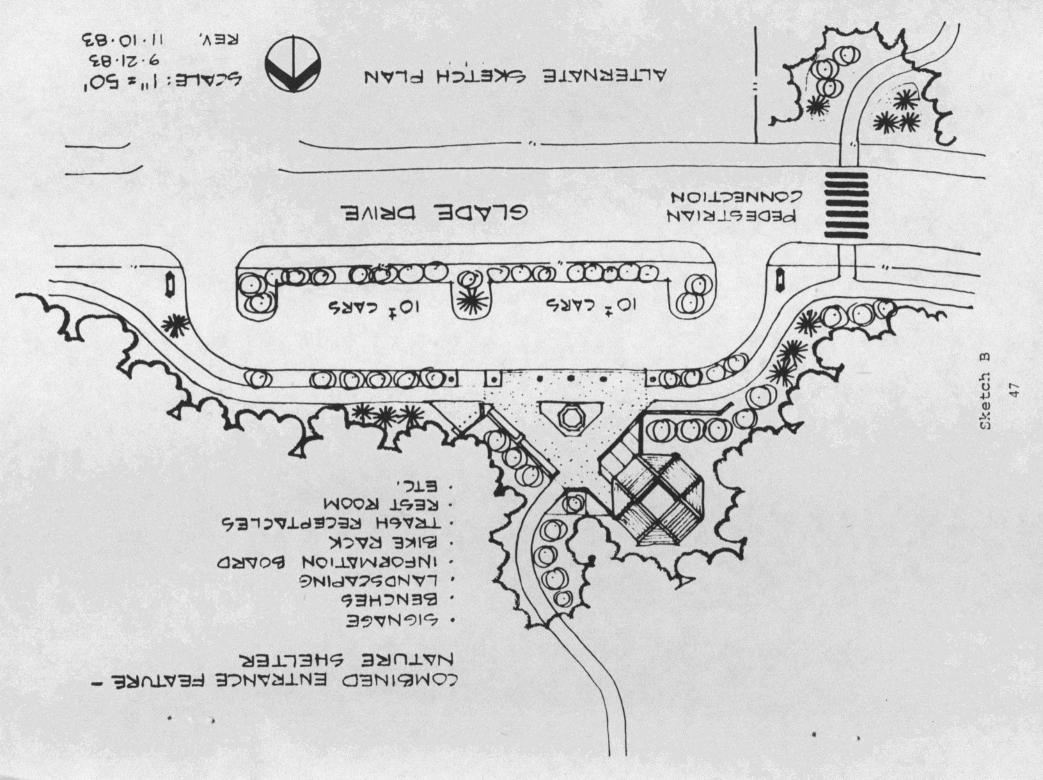
The large number of barren, eroding "goat" paths bear evidence of the volume of pedestrian traffic now using the site and adjacent open space. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that the major north-south pathway shown on RHOA pathway maps east of, and parallel to, Soapstone Drive wanders thru parking lots, walkways (with steps) and lead walks of Soapstone Cluster. Some residents of Soapstone Cluster prefer to have this major pathway between the houses and Soapstone Drive rather than through the North Nature Center. An investigation by RHOA staff and interested residents resulted in a recommendation not to run a new path along Soapstone Drive. With completion of the planned pathway and bridge at the end of Lake Audubon and paved paths to the east, north and south of the Center, paths in the center should provide circulation for those enjoying the Nature Centers and to improve north - west to south - east movement. (See attached schematic facility and circulation plan).

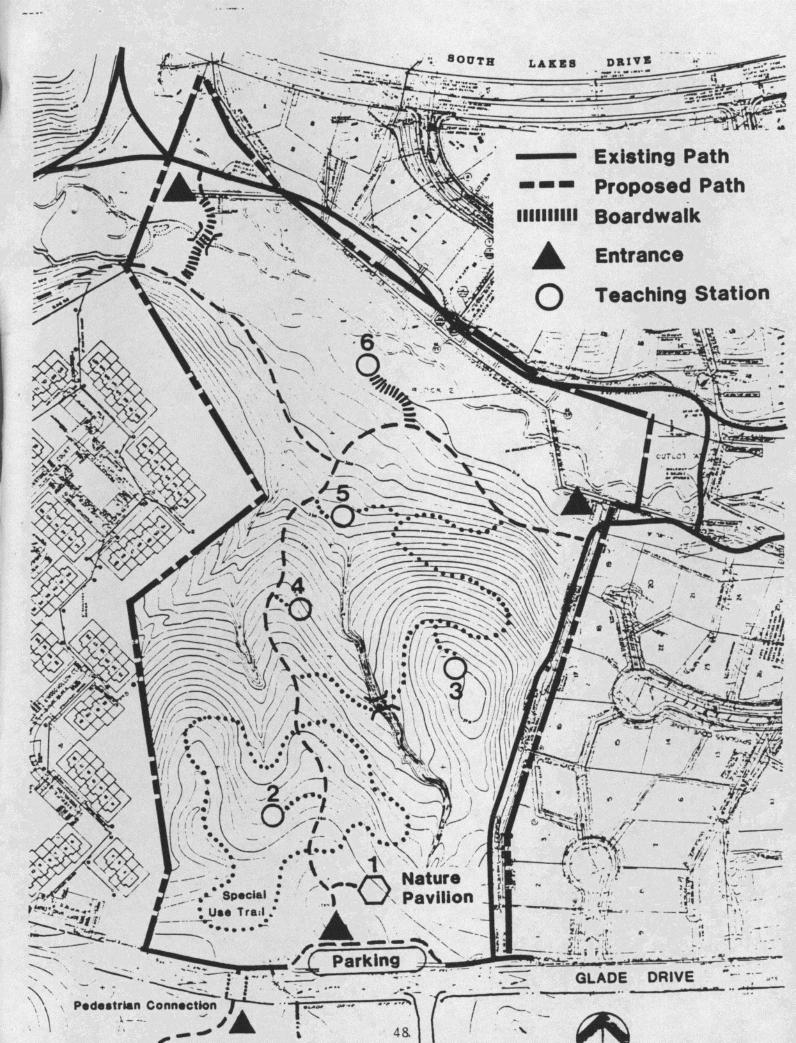
The primary "development" within the North Nature Center site should be accommodation of pedestrian travel to and in the Center. The needs of those who have made the trails - primarily north of Soapstone Cluster are addressed by the committee's pathway proposal. In general, paths should be asphalt, natural or wood chip surface depending on their function. This applies to existing dirt pathways as well as those laid out for interpretive use. Adjacent to the paths there should be developed teaching stations and educational exhibits for students, RHOA summer camp and other potential users of the site.

6. Nature Center Building

There should be no building or museum within the north Nature Center if the area is managed by RHOA so that the adjacent Glade Room is available. If a museum/enclosed meeting room/lecture area is later needed, that could be added to the Glade Room. This addition could function as a full-time natural "museum" display area and teaching space.







Uses 7.

The following uses/activity elements are appropriate for the north Nature Center:

- RHOA summer camp learning areas and other organized, special education outings
- lectures/workshops/nature study activities including indoor and outdoor lectures (indoor portion held in school facilities or at Glade Room)
- walking, jogging, biking
- small totlot/play area for adjacent residents
- outdoor gathering/shelter
- vita par cour adjacent to paved pathways
- self-quided walks and organized, naturalist-led nature walks
- nature painting and photography including a blind for bird photography
- conservation exhibits and demonstrations/observation platform/teaching stations
- special classes for developing outdoor skills
- footbridges across sensitive areas and elevated walkway over marshy areas Low contract
- council ring/campfire area

8. Utilities

Electricity need not be provided. Electricity will lead to amplified sound and to lighting not necessary for the projected RHOA use. Running water is not necessary at this time. A lockable composting toilet facility should be made part of, or immediately adjacent to, the shelter/Phoenix Anteater.

9. Other Uses

There should be no camping facilities in the north Nature Center. There is a need for a picnic shelter somewhere in south Reston similar to that provided by the Temporary Road Park in central Reston. It does not necessarily need to go in either the North or the South Nature Center. The Glade pool area could provide for more intensive use or storage facilities.

10. North Nature Center Development Costs Preliminary Estimate (Subject to Revision)

NOTE: This cost estimate is approximate and reflects a conceptualized design for the North Nature Center developed by the Land Use Committee.

Costs may vary depending upon materials, methods and labor used. Estimated costs may be reduced substantially if the work is to be done by RHOA staff with a minimum of sub-contracted items. Volunteer effort and donated materials could also reduce the total expenditure.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that development of the North Nature Center would be phased over a period of time. Additional trails, teaching stations, bridges, etc. could be added as necessary.

	<u>ITEM</u>	COST
∤1.	Nature study pavilion with storage	\$ 30,000
₹2.	Asphalt paths Wood chip paths Boardwalks Wooden bridges (2)	40,800 23,800 2,500 10,000
3.	Teaching stations (5) including minor clearing and signs	1,500
4.	Entrance features o paving o kiosk/bulletin board o major entrance sign (1) o minor entrance signs (2) o railroad tie wall/seating o bike rack o trash receptacles o benches o pedestrian crossing striping	7,500
1/	o water fountain o misc.	
₹5.	Parking area including clearing, grading, paving	♦ 19,000
₹6.	Landscaping - trees, shrubs, mulch	6,000
7.	Engineering and Architectural Design fees	5,000
	Sub Total	\$146,200
	5% Contingency	7,310

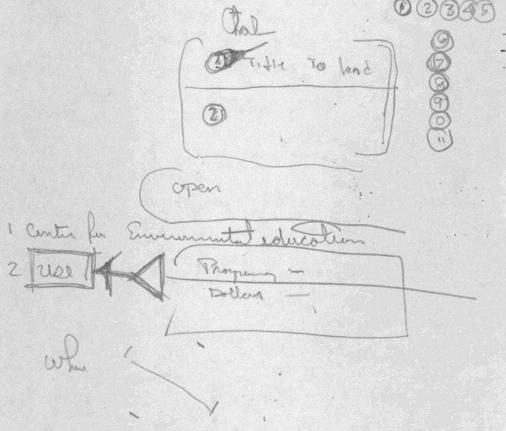
Total \$153,510

11. North Nature Center Implementation

In order to insure implementation of the North Nature Center plan the committee recommends, that Reston Land Corporation not convey the North Nature Center to RHOA until the improvements outlined in this plan are completed and the programs for the facility's use are budgeted and committed to. A three year phased implementation is recommended. Further, Reston Land Corporation may wish to set a time limit past which it will open negotiations with others for conveyance of the parcel, to carry out the objectives outlined here for the North Nature Center.

12. Summary

The committee's recommendations provide a reasonable basis for RHOA use and avoids the alternative of extensive/intensive development or leaving the site as it is at the present time, without benefit of interpretative or support facilities.



1. Background

In order to recommend appropriate uses for the site of the former stable on Reston Avenue, the committee gathered information concerning equestrian facilities in the Northern Virginia and the Washington Metropolitan area as well as indications of the types of additional facilities which might be desirable. Early in its work, the committee was also asked to consider the feasibility of RHOA's acceptance of the existing co-op horse barn near the Vepco right-of-way on Stuart Road as a RHOA facility. Recognizing that an extensive study of equestrian facilities and needs was necessary before these issues could be addressed, a subcommittee on equestrian activities was appointed at the November 3 meeting. The subcommittee involved a number of community residents who contributed to the subcommittee efforts.

As a result of the subcommittee's research, it was determined that an integrated system of equestrian facilities in Reston was desirable, and that a central teaching facility at the former stable site should be the core of this system. (Sec. IIID of this report discusses this system in greater detail.)

After considering alternative locations for the core teaching facility including trading the former stable site for a larger one and after reviewing fully the remaining improvements at the former stable site, the subcommittee, at the April 6 meeting, recommended that a small warm weather teaching barn be constructed on that site. The majority of the committee agreed that if the economic feasibility of such a facility could be demonstrated, a teaching barn would be an appropriate and companionable use for the site.

2. The Site

The site of the former stable on Reston Avenue is just south of Glade Drive and is approximately six acres in size. From 1964 until 1981 this was the location of a large riding stable owned by RHOA and leased to a succession of managers under different arrangements. The former stable was never a success from the point of view of economic self sufficiency nor were users who talked to the committee impressed with the amenity of the facility. The stable provided riding lessons, trail rides, horse shows and other activities until the structure collapsed in 1981. Currently, the site includes a small paved parking area, a 150' X 300' bluestone riding ring, three 75' X 100' paddocks surrounded by deteriorating fences. The site also includes a small wooded area with jumps and paths.

3. Stable

Citing poor design and large size of the former stable (164' X 136') as reasons for its structural as well as its financial problems, the subcommittee proposed the construction of a small, open-sided pole barn, 72' X 36' which could house ten to twenty horses depending on stall size. Two 12' X 12' rooms would serve as office space and a tackroom, and an open aisle, 12' X 72' room would accommodate indoor theory classes. A post and rail fence located ten feet away from both sides of the building would provide an area for hitching horses. (See sketch, Appendix, B.3).

4. Parking

The existing parking area should be extended to accommodate perpendicular car parking plus 2 spaces and two "dumpster" containers, one for storing sawdust and one for manure.

5. Provision of Services

Horses and lessons and possibly trail rides for the public would be provided by a concessioner/vendor who would contract with RHOA to operate the program for a specified period of time. While expenses related to operation of the stable could be expected to be borne by the vendor, the committee decided at the May 17 meeting, that it would be appropriate for RHOA to contribute to the cost of construction and maintenance of the facility. The extent of this contribution would be subject to the RHOA budget process.

6. A Measure of Interest

In March of 1983, the Chair of the subcommittee conducted an informal survey of 500 elementary and intermediate school students at three Reston schools and concluded that a high degree of interest in riding lessons was evident. It was noted by the subcommittee that the former stable served approximately 1100 lesson participants annually. When the stable collapsed, participants relocated to other teaching facilities in the area.

7. Financial feasibility

The cost of constructing the barn is estimated at approximately \$25,000. Income from lessons was estimated at \$34,500 annually based on 576 student hours (12 horses used 12 hours per week for 24 weeks) at \$10 per hour. (Other riding schools in the area use horses much more intensively and in some cases, up to 24 hours per week per horse.) Based on the subcommittee review forcast and facility cost estimate the operation could be self sustaining and with optimum operation repay the capital costs. The proof of the feasibility, however, is whether or not a qualified private concession vendor would be willing to take on the management

and operations. In order to test the interest a letter of inquiry (request for proposals) was sent to every operator of horse facilities that might have an interest - or might be qualified (see Appendix, B.3). Of the 17 inquiries (see list, Appendix, B.3) all were negative except one which responded said that they needed more time to review the question.

In summary, after much creative effort the subcommittee developed a proposal which was attractive and suited to the site. However, it does not meet the test of fiscal feasibility. This is in line with what committee members determined from other sources. While there is "interest" there is, no viable market for the service.

X

The committee recommends that the financial feasibility of a suitably designed facility be tested from time to time and that a location for a stable be reserved until some other use is found to be more desirable for this site.

Whether a teaching facility is built at the former stable site or not the committee recommends that the following for the remainder of the site be implemented:

- 1. Maintain the riding ring and connections to the horse trail system for use by those using the existing Pony Barn and others who have access to the horse trail system.
- 2. A neighborhood soccer field (205 X 130) be initiated as shown on the sketch plan in Appendix B.2.
- 3. That the wooded area and the open area be developed as a picnic area with appropriate shelter similar to Temporary Road Park to serve south Reston.

IVC. BARON CAMERON PARK SITE

Land description

This tract is listed as 20 acres north of (606) Baron Cameron Avenue opposite the entrance to lake Anne Village. A large area on the northeast part of the acreage contains Browns Chapel near the highway and four baseball/softball fields behind the chapel. The chapel is used for public meeting rooms and tables outside are used for day camp activities. The property narrows in the middle where it consists of a forested area between Baron Cameron and an asphalt trail along the top of an earth-fill dam. The undeveloped lake shore and new visitors center at the west end of the dam are not part of the park except as a visual reforested buffer between the bike trail and Baron Cameron, a large parking lot to the north and a proposed 6-court tennis facility at the extreme west end of the property.

2. Resources

The baseball complex has well constructed back stops and a level area for the playing fields but no other facilities except two port-a-johns and a drinking fountain. There are a few large trees and some underbrush between the fields and the chapel and some shade trees near the outdoor picnic tables on the east side of the chapel which is quite old, a modest sized white frame structure. There are parking areas near the fields and near the chapel. A wide driveway comes into the property from the Lake Anne stoplight. The front of the chapel and the parking area have newly planted trees and grass landscaping. The view from the ballfields and bike trail of the lake surrounded by tall trees and the Visitors Center on the far shore is a very pleasant scene.

The forest area below the dam and bike trail contains unusually fine large specimens of white and other oaks and a diverse understory of holly, dogwood, wild rhododendrom and many other native Virginia plants and shrubs make this area a special nature area. Most of the forest floor is blanketed with ferns. There is a cleared area in the middle of the dam with a rock channel that has active water drains creating a marshy hillside. Small cleared or open areas are found in the forest near the ballfields and chapel and along the access road.

This forested area is separated from the sports park tennis area and a thin buffer strip of trees by a drive leading to the visitors center. The parking and visitors center are beautifully landscaped with new trees and shrubs with the uncleared forest areas creating a scenic background. Lighted courts would improve use and improve safety at night.

3. Discussion

As any little league parent knows who has tried to support the family athlete(s) while attending younger siblings, there are several essentials for a rich recreational experience and survival. They are water, johns, picnic tables and shade. Hikers, bikers and strollers also find the existence of an oasis with these facilities most welcome and when combined with a place to pause and enjoy an exceptional natural setting they are doubly rewarded.

4. Recommendations

- 1. Install durable modern toilet facilities and a drinking fountain next to the ballfield parking lot.
 - 2. Clear most of the brush around the large trees between the ballfield and chapel, install crushed rock, a few benches in the shade and a few trash cans where teams and spectators congregate.
 - 3a. Extend a secondary trail through the middle of the forested area with a foot bridge across the wet area. Make short side paths to interesting plant assemblages.
 - b. Install crushed rock adjacent to the trail in the cleared areas on the east end and add a few picnic tables and trash cans.
 - c. Introduce native water-loving plants and make a stepping stone path and create a tiny pond by the bridge.
 - d. Identify the various tree, shrub and plant species with markers and rustic signs.

Construct a covered 40-50 foot diameter picnic pavilion near the lake and the baseball parking lot with appropriate tables, benches and trash receivers.

5. Show off the Visitors Center and this excellent example of northern Virginia flora to visitors by making the area more accessible.