

donations and gifts by friends of the nature center. It is also possible that some foundation could be interested in financing a "model community nature center" near the nation's capitol.

#### SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Interspersed throughout this survey and plan are a number of general and specific recommendations for the planning and development of an educational outdoor nature center at Reston, Virginia. For practical reasons an effort has been made to bring together the more important of these and to give them some kind of a sequential listing. This should provide a logical order to development and allow for some work phases to begin promptly.

These major recommendations are:

1. Study and review all aspects of this survey and plan and decide what phases can be implemented into the Reston master plan.
2. Prescribe and if possible formally dedicate the 101.4-acre natural area as a future Reston nature and conservation center. By such action Reston, Inc., would in effect go on record as guaranteeing the integrity of the nature center and wildlife sanctuary.

3. Place some responsible individual, such as the Reston forester, in charge of certain early development phases of the project with supervision by the chief planning engineer.
4. Have the engineering department prepare an accurate land survey of the boundaries of the center grounds. Such boundaries should be staked out, marked and brushed out clearly so that all the lines are unmistakable. The boundary lines should be cleared to sufficient width to serve as a peripheral fire lane.
5. Have a surveyor run an accurate water-level line prescribing the limits of the two proposed lakes in the nature center area; these should be staked out carefully.
6. Clear trees and other vegetation from the proposed lake beds except for the two small natural islands which are to serve as special wildlife havens for pinioned ducks and geese.
7. Clear small areas for forest and wildlife plantings and prepare the seedbed for fall and spring plantings.
8. Flag out and construct the several nature trails outlined in Map #3; where possible, construct footbridges

and boardwalks. Rough out proposed parking lot and building site.

9. Eliminate existing horse trails in the area by planting these trails to woodland type of grasses, scattered evergreens and wildlife food-bearing shrubs.
10. Organize a local, tax-exempt association to help plan, develop and administer the center project.
11. Agree on final development plans and a specific course of action, including development schedule.
12. Employ nature center director.
13. Work up tentative budgetary needs.
14. Prepare brochure on plans and program and conduct financial campaign.
15. Approve initial capital outlay and annual operation budget.
16. Appoint advisory committees to effect various phases of development--land, buildings, educational program.
17. Employ remainder of staff.
18. Begin major land and water improvements; construct interpretive building.
19. Publicize plans and program.
20. Announce opening of center.



21. Follow through, periodically, with an evaluation survey of the program, particularly as Reston continues to develop and grow.

With regard to recommendation #21 the Nature Centers Division of the National Audubon Society can be engaged to evaluate operations or programs at any point during planning or development. Likewise, its consulting services can be engaged during any phase of educational programming.

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