



ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

Max Ewart

Parks and Recreation Department

August 17, 2022

Beaver Pond Park

Park Renaming

Beaver Pond Park

The pond was originally designed and constructed as a stormwater detention facility to collect and slow stormwater runoff from Interstate 66. Due to its filling up with sediments from stormwater runoff, it was no longer functioning as originally designed and invasive plants and trash were continual issues.

- The future designed wetland will provide water quality treatment for runoff from more than 300 acres of urban and suburban land.
- This important project is one of the ways the County plans to comply with Virginia stormwater discharge regulations and contribute to restoring the Chesapeake Bay.



Park Improvements:

- Trail connection between Fairfax Dr. and Washington Blvd.
- New wetlands observation platform with seating and educational panels.
- Restoration of native wetland and upland plantings.
- Wildlife habitat improvements including turtle basking stations

PARK NAMING ENGAGEMENT

A two-part public engagement was initiated in June to provide an opportunity for public input on a potential park name. The first online form gave respondents a chance to suggest park names which fit the County's Park Naming criteria. Two of the applicable criteria are listed below:

“County facilities, including buildings and parks, shall generally be named according to the geographical, historical, or ecological relationships in which the site is located.

“To Commemorate an Individual’s Service: Facilities may be named after an individual who made significant contributions to Arlington County through participation in community, state, or national service. A facility can be so named five years or more after the individual is deceased.”

PROPOSED PARK NAME

The second online engagement form had four potential park names that people could rank from the most preferred to the least preferred. A total of 481 respondents gave their input resulting in the ranking shown below.

“Ballston Wetlands” (meets geographical and ecological relationships criteria)

- Name highlights the wetland feature and its location at the western tip of Ballston.

“Crossroads Wetland Park” (meets historic and ecological relationships criteria)

- Name recognizes the area near the intersection of North Glebe Road and Wilson Boulevard which became known as Ball’s Crossroads when Ball’s Tavern was established there in the early 1800s. By the mid-1800s, Ball’s Crossroads was one of the more settled areas in the County, with an established identity as a trading center.

“Thaddeus Lowe Park” (meets historic criteria)

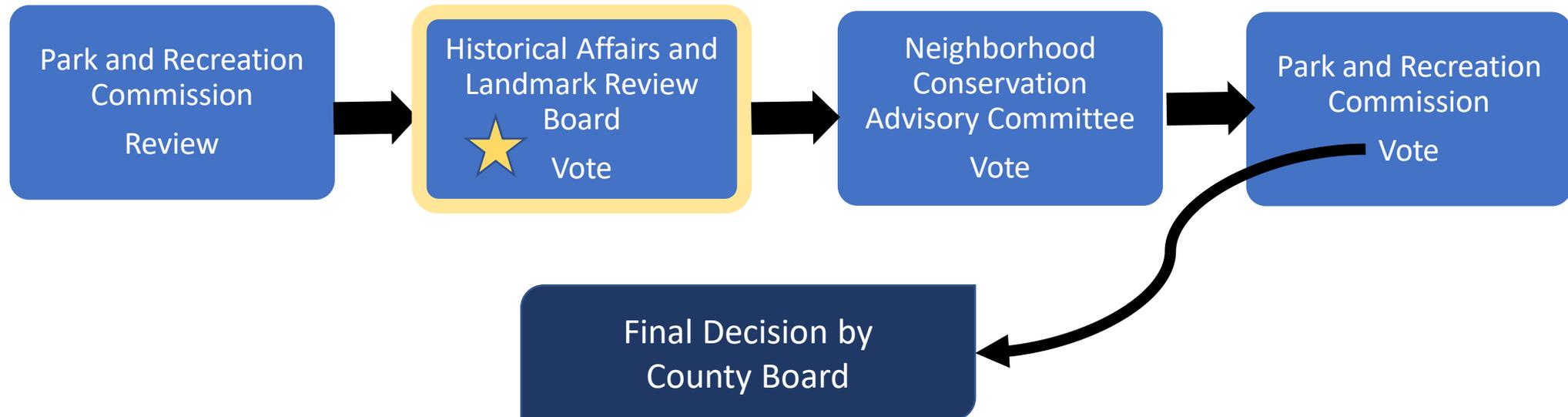
- Name recognizes Thaddeus Lowe, the Union Army’s Chief Aeronaut, who conducted hot air balloon surveillance flights between 1861 – 1863. He made multiple tethered ascents in Arlington (one ascent at Ball’s Crossroads), Falls Church and Fairfax County to perform the first aerial reconnaissance in American military history, providing intelligence on the locations of Confederate troops.

“Wetlands Vista Park” (meets ecological relationships criteria)

- Name acknowledges a key natural feature in the park and a new platform that allows you to observe the wetlands and wildlife.

COUNTY REVIEW PROCESS

“**Ballston Wetlands**” was ranked the highest of the four potential names. The County requests consideration of this proposed park name to replace the current name, Beaver Pond Park.



QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION