

HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING – December 14, 2021

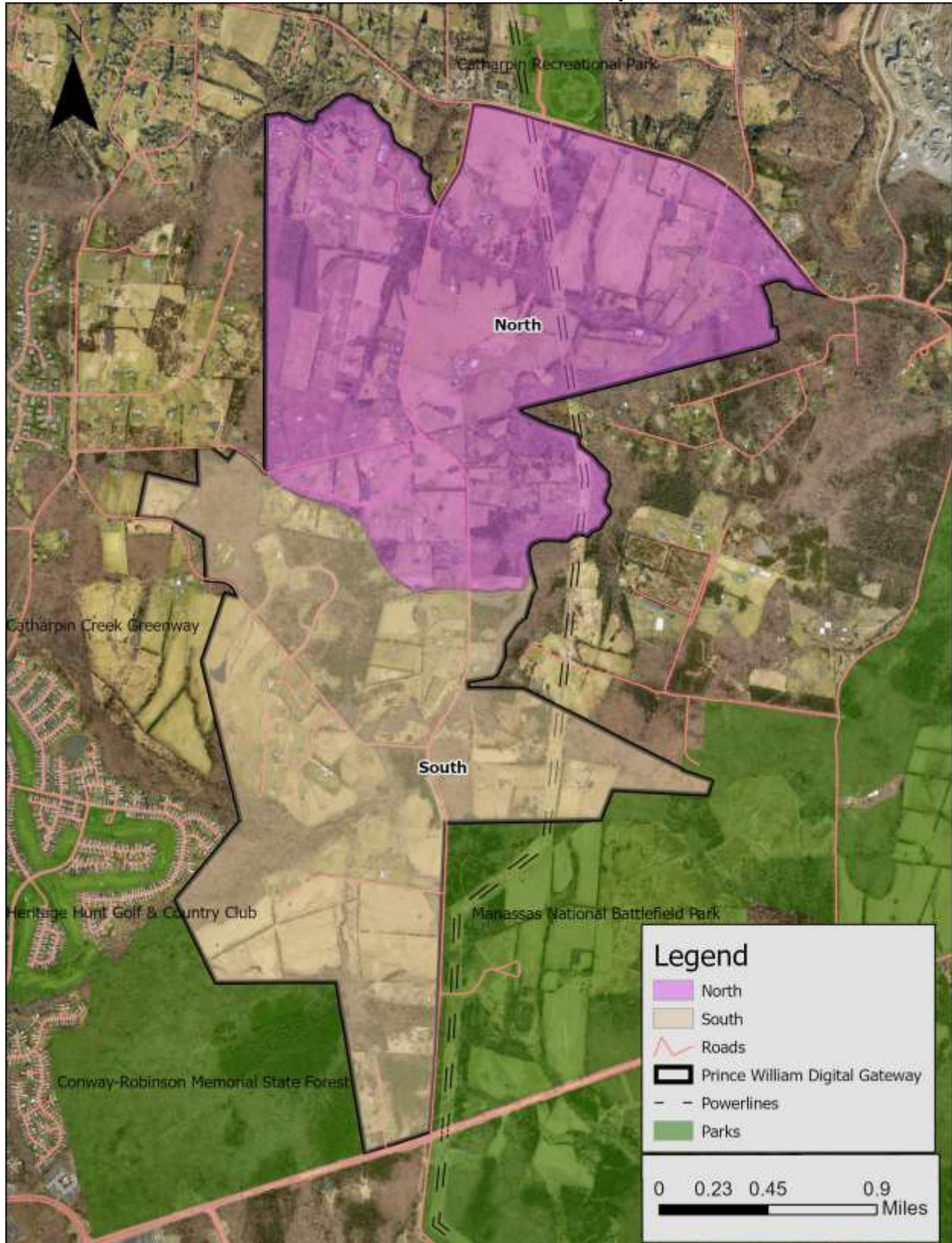
DRAFT LAND DEVELOPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Resolution to be approved at the January 11th meeting of the Historical Commission

| <u>Case Number</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Recommendation</u> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|---|
| REZ2021-00014 | Wellington Glen Parcel K | No Further Work |
| REZ2022-00014 | Haymarket Crossing II | No Further Work |
| CPA2021-00004 | PW Digital Gateway | <p>For Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA): Recommend splitting the parcel into South and North sections (see attached map).</p> <p>Southern section - keep existing land use or change to Parks and Open Space (P&OS).</p> <p>Northern section – before decision on the CPA, request an Architectural Survey and Evaluation of above ground resources; those above ground resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places should be preserved in place.</p> <p>Northern Section - Mitigation so any new buildings, structures, power lines, towers are not visible from the Manassas National Battlefield Park</p> <p>Northern section - request Phase I study with a rezoning application and, if warranted, Phase II evaluation and Phase III data recovery study. Artifacts to be donated to and curated with the County;</p> <p>If rezoning is requested: Southern section same as CPA recommendation.</p> <p>Cemeteries - in all sections to be preserved in place with enhanced preservation area/buffers;</p> |
| SUP2022-00013 | Potomac Mills Mobil | No Further Work |

| <u>Case Number</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Recommendation</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| SUP2022-00011 | Dunkin - Richmond Highway | No Further Work |
| | | |

Historical Commission Map



**Prince William County Historical Commission
Review of Pending Development Application (11/2/2021)**

File Name: CPA2021-00004, PW Digital Gateway
Assigned to: Blaine Pearsall
HC Agenda: December 14, 2021
Return to: Aisha Medina by December 10, 2021

1. Visual Inspection Findings: (Describe what is on the property now, the date the inspection was performed, and the method used): _____

2. County Records Check: (Verify whether any reference is contained on this site on the following sources):

| | | |
|--|--------------|----------|
| 1. Prince William County Cultural Resources Map (GIS) | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 2. 1820 Prince William County Map (Wood) | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 3. 1901 Prince William County Map (Brown) | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 4. 1904 Army Maneuvers Map | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 5. 1915-1927 USGS 15 Minute Quad Maps | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 6. 1933 Virginia Highway Map | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 7. Eugene Scheel's Historic Prince William Map | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 8. Eugene Scheel's African American Heritage Map | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 9. County Registered Historic Site (CRHS) | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 10. High Sensitivity Areas – Historic Sites Map | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 11. High Sensitivity Areas – Prehistoric Sites Map | Yes _____ | No _____ |
| 12. The Official Military Atlas of the Civil War | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 13. Civil War Map from the Library of Congress | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 14. American Battlefield Protection Program Maps | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 15. Map of Fairfax, Loudoun, & Prince William Counties | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 16. USGS Topographic Maps | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| 17. Cemetery (PWC GIS) | Yes <u>X</u> | No _____ |
| Other: _____ | | |

3. Discussion: (Discuss specifics wherever a "yes" box has been checked) _____
HIGH SENSITIVITY AREA

4. Recommendation: (Check all that apply)

- _____ Research past ownership
- _____ Evaluate standing structures for historic significance (Architectural Survey)
- _____ Determine extent of cemetery
- _____ Advise Historical Commission and obtain its authorization to take a position at BOCS and Planning Commission hearings
- _____ Recommend Military Sites Survey
- _____ Recommend Phase I archaeological survey and, if warranted,
- _____ Recommend Phase II evaluation and, if warranted, Phase III data recovery study
- _____ Artifacts to be donated to and curated with the County
- _____ Recommend Interpretation
- _____ No additional work needed

X Other SEE ATTACHMENT. SEE USDI NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LETTER TO BOCS. SEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION LETTER FROM EARLIER 2021

Name: [Signature] Date: 12-14-2021

Please return the completed form to staff liaison on or before the specified due date.

THIS PROPOSAL IMPACTS LANDS THAT ARE IN THE MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LISTED ON THE NROHP, AS WELL AS THE VA LANDMARKS REGISTRY. PORTIONS OF THIS PLAN AREA ARE IN BATTLEFIELD CORE AREAS AND POTENTIAL ^{NATIONAL REGISTER DISTRICT} ~~BOA~~ AS DEFINED BY THE AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM.

RECOMMENDATION

SOUTH PORTION

THIS LAND SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND MAINTAIN CURRENT LAND USE, AND/OR IN PARKS & OPEN SPACES DESIGNATION.

NORTH PORTION

MITIGATION & PREVENTION
RECOMMEND ARCHITECTURAL STUDY & EVALUATION OF BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES - PHASE I ON ANY REZONE CEMETERIES AND STRUCTURES (HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & INTEGRITY) SHOULD BE PROTECTED/PRESERVED IN PLACE
ENHANCED
~~50-75 FT~~ BUFFER

RECOMMEND BUILDING; ADDITIONAL POWERLINE; TOWERS NOT BE VISIBLE FROM MANASSAS BATTLEFIELD



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Manassas National Battlefield Park
12521 Lee Highway
Manassas, Virginia 20109-2005

December 3, 2021

Ann Wheeler, Chair
Prince William Board of County Supervisors
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia 22192

Subject: Impacts of the Proposed PW Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment on Manassas National Battlefield Park

Chair Wheeler and Members of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors:

Earlier today, I submitted formal comments to the Prince William County Planning Office on the proposal to amend the Comprehensive Plan to allow for intensive development along Pageland Lane, adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park. I have attached a copy of my comments and will let them speak for themselves, but I wanted to take a brief moment to summarize the grave concerns I have over the potential irreparable harm that this development would cause to one of Prince William County's two National Parks.

I believe that the intensive development of the Pageland Lane corridor is the single greatest threat to Manassas National Battlefield Park in nearly three decades. The impact of this proposal on the Park is comparable to two proposals in the late 1980's and the early 1990's that galvanized the historic preservation movement and garnered nationwide attention. In 1988, the proposed 550-acre William Center development resulted in such an uproar that the United States Congress ultimately ordered the federal government to acquire the contested land and directed that it be added to the Park. A few years later, in 1993, the Walt Disney Company proposed to construct a Disney's America theme park 3 ½ miles to the west of the Park. This proposal was also ultimately defeated after outcries over its impact to the park, historic resources, and the surrounding communities.

In both of these cases, the Board of County Supervisors was attracted by the lure of tax revenue promised by these developments. The same can certainly be said about the current proposal for a 2,133-acre data center corridor along Pageland Lane. But just as was the case in 1988 and in 1993, this proposal is extremely concerning to the National Park Service. I believe that as more people throughout Prince William County - and across the nation - become aware of this proposal and its impacts on the Park, the Board of County Supervisors will face a similar outcry.

I would thus urge you to seriously consider the detrimental impacts to the Park and to the County's historic resources as you deliberate the outcome of this Comprehensive Plan Amendment. As I have described in my formal comments, the southern 570 acres of the

2,133-acre application area is particularly sensitive, and has been recognized by both state and federal agencies for its significance and direct association with the Battle of Second Manassas. If anything, these lands should either be removed from the application, or otherwise designated as an area to be preserved.

Previously, I have written and testified before you about the significant benefits the Park provides the County both in terms of job creation and economic output, and also as an open space in which local residents can hike, enjoy the outdoors, and learn about their nation's history. This experience could be forever changed should you elect to intensively develop the rural area along the park's western edge.

Rest assured that despite statements to the contrary by supporters of this proposal, the western boundary of the Park remains scenic and rural. The mere presence of a power transmission line does not in itself destroy the entire historic and scenic character of an area. While indeed unsightly, the agricultural and historic nature of the battlefield's western edge is still largely intact. And while supporters of this development have claimed there is no other option for the use of their lands, the County's Department of Economic Development is actively fielding inquiries from the agritourism industry, which is attracted to this area precisely *because* of its landscapes and proximity to the Park. This could lead to sympathetic development of lands adjacent to the Park which would be far less impactful.

Finally, I would request that if anything, you consider completing the previously initiated update to the Data Center Overlay District *prior* to advancing this amendment proposal any further. This would give the county firm data on the need and appropriateness of a land use change such as this without having to rely upon this CPA proposal, where many critical details are inaccurately represented or unaddressed.

When I speak with people about the mission of the National Park Service, I like to say that we are in the "forever business." It is our role to protect these places for future generations, as well as to share the stories of our nation's past so that they are not forgotten. In considering this proposal, I would urge you to take a similar approach, as the actions you take have the potential to impact the history of the park and the County for decades to come.

Sincerely,



Brandon S. Bies
Superintendent

Attachment



May 11, 2021

Prince William Board of County Supervisors
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, VA 22192

Re: Development Impacts on Manassas National Battlefield Park

Dear Board Members:

The Prince William County Historical Commission makes recommendations to you, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, in its ongoing efforts to identify, preserve, protect and promote Prince William County's historical sites, artifacts, buildings and events.

During its regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2021, the Historical Commission discussed the proposed PWC Digital Gateway as reported in the Prince William Times on March 2, 2021. Additionally, at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 13, 2021, the Historical Commission revisited its position regarding this proposal.

Upon further consideration, the Historical Commission desires to voice its opposition to any non-residential development adjacent to Manassas National Battlefield Park, such as data centers, industrial uses and large-scale commercial ventures, that may directly or indirectly negatively impact battlefield resources.

The Historical Commission noted this project is in the Manassas Battlefield National Register Historic District and adjacent to the Manassas National Battlefield Park, a division of the National Park Service. This proposed project will have negative direct impacts on battlefield land in the National Register district where Union and Confederate soldiers fought, were injured and killed. The Historical Commission is also concerned about potential unmarked soldier burials on proposed data center land.

Additionally, the Historical Commission is concerned about visual and auditory impacts from proposed data centers, electrical substations and, if warranted, additional high-voltage electrical transmission lines on the experience of visitors in Manassas National Battlefield Park and loss of integrity to the overall National Register District.

Finally, the Historical Commission appreciates previous actions by the Board of County Supervisors classifying Manassas National Battlefield Park as a County Registered Historic Site.

Prince William Board of County Supervisors
Development Impacts on Manassas National Battlefield Park
May 11, 2021
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If you have any questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (703) 580-7267 or via email at kbrace@aol.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimball Brace". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K" and "B".

Kimball (Kim) Brace
Chairman, Historical Commission

cc: Christopher E. Martino, County Executive
Rebecca Horner, Deputy County Executive
Parag Agrawal, Planning Director