

# PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT

ITEM: SSPA 2024-III-1P January 8, 2025

**GENERAL LOCATION:** Southeast quadrant of intersection of Route 123 and Hooes Road.

SUPERVISOR DISTRICT: Mount Vernon

PLANNING AREA: Area III

PLANNING DISTRICT: Pohick Planning District SUB-DISTRICT: P5 - Dominion Community Planning Sector (CPS)

**PARCEL LOCATION:** 106-4((1)) 17, 18, 19 (part), 27 and 27A

PLANNING COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.

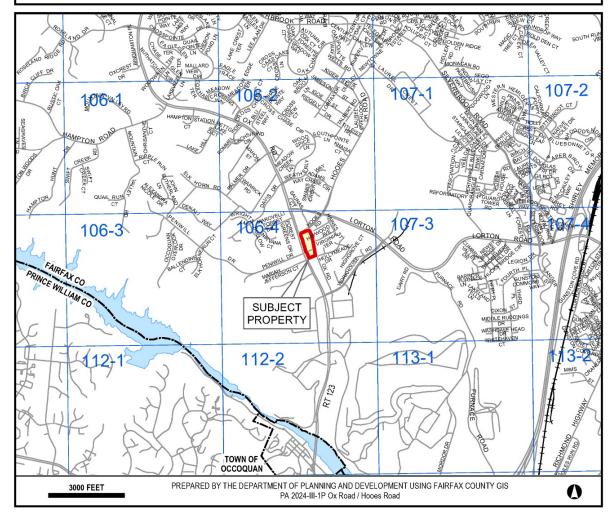
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC HEARING:

Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

# PLANNING STAFF <u>DOES</u> RECOMMEND THIS ITEM FOR PLAN AMENDMENT

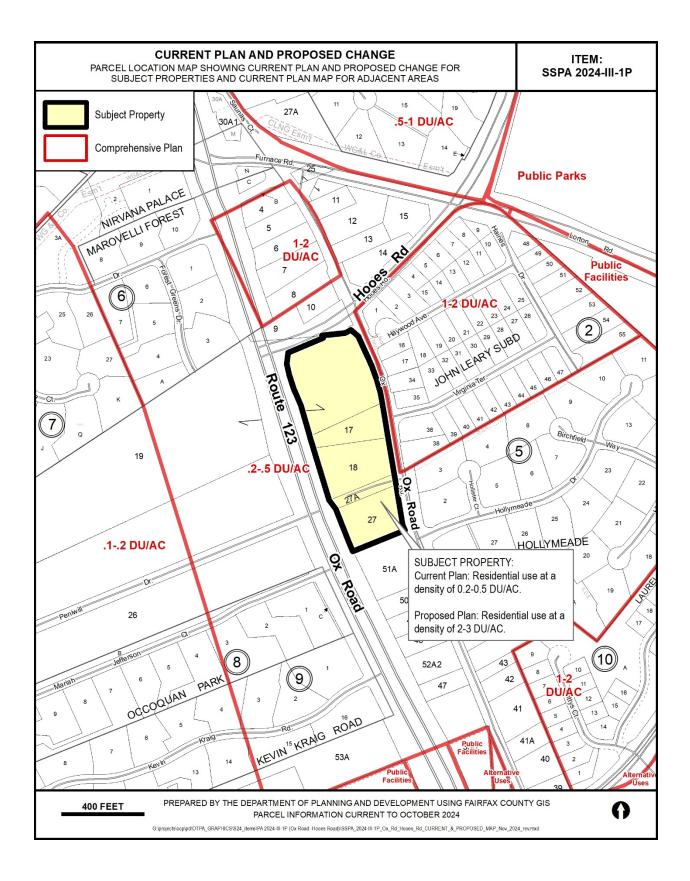


Reasonable accommodation is available upon 48 hours notice. For additional information about accommodation call the Planning Commission office at (703) 324-2865, or the Board of Supervisors office at (703) 324-3151.



For additional information about this amendment call (703) 324-1380.

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#### STAFF REPORT FOR PLAN AMENDMENT PA 2024-III-1P

#### BACKGROUND

On April 16, 2024, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized Plan Amendment (PA) 2024-III-1P for Tax Map Parcels 106-4 ((1)) 17, 18, 19 (part), 27 and 27A; located at 9300, 9304, 9224 Ox Road, Lorton, VA, 22079. The Plan amendment authorization considers detached residential use at a higher density than the current base plan, with specific considerations for tree preservation and buffering from Ox Road, watershed and noise impacts, multimodal connectivity, and open spaces and parks. The authorization noted that the Plan amendment should be reviewed concurrently with rezoning application RZ/FDP 2024-MV-00016, which is under review to rezone the property from the Residential, one dwelling unit per acre (R-1) District to the Planned Development Housing, three dwelling units per acre (PDH-3) District to accommodate up to 23 single-family detached dwelling units. Any recommendation for this Plan amendment should not be construed as a favorable recommendation by the Board, the Planning Commission, or staff on the proposed zoning application and does not relieve the applicant from compliance with the provisions of all applicable ordinances, regulations, and adopted standards.

#### **CHARACTER OF THE SITE**

The 8.05-acre subject site consists of five parcels located on the east side of Ox Road (Route 123), south of Hooes Road, and west of "Old" Ox Road. Each of the parcels is accessed from "Old" Ox Road. Two parcels are developed with three single-family detached homes and the remainder of the parcels are undeveloped, although at least two additional residences previously existed but have been demolished. The site is planned for residential use at a density of 0.2-0.5 dwelling units per acre (du/ac) and zoned R-1. Peniwill Drive was previously located on the subject site prior to the development of Ox Road (Route 123); however, this former right-of-way was vacated and is now privately-owned. A large portion of Parcel 19, to the west across Ox Road (Route 123), contains undeveloped land and portions of a Resource Protection Area (RPA) and is not included in the subject site or Plan amendment.

#### PLANNING HISTORY

The P5-Dominion Community Planning Sector within the Pohick Planning District was established with the PLUS Plan in 1975, which originally recommended low density residential use at 0.2 du/ac with some limited residential development at 1 du/ac. This density limitation was recommended in order to protect the Occoquan Reservoir from pollution and siltation. The current densities on the site and the surrounding area range between 0.2-0.5 du/ac and 1-2 du/ac and were established in the 1985 version of the Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map. The subject site and surrounding area is zoned R-1; however, there is a small area of PDH-2 zoned property southeast of the subject property. The primarily R-1 zoning designation for the area predates the

establishment of the Comprehensive Plan's lower density recommendations for this area. Of note, the Cavenaugh Crossing neighborhood, located immediately to the east of the site across "Old" Ox Road, was developed in the early 2000s on the John Leary subdivision, which was approved in 1942 and predates both the Zoning Ordinance and the Comprehensive Plan in Fairfax County. This subdivision is zoned R-1; however, the effective density is 2.6 du/ac. As a result of the higher zoning density and the legacy John Leary subdivision, the very low-density recommendations described in the Comprehensive Plan in this area have not been implemented.



Figure 1. Adopted Comprehensive Plan Land Use Map, Source: Planning & Zoning Viewer

The subject site was originally nominated in the 2022-23 Site Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) cycle for up to 70 single-family attached units at a density of 5-8 du/ac. Following community and staff review, the nomination was withdrawn as the proposed use and density were considered to be incompatible with the uses and densities of the surrounding area, which is a single-family detached neighborhood. Following the withdrawal of the original concept, the nomination was revised to consist of a single-family detached residential concept, and an amendment was added to Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program in April 2024, as noted previously.

#### ADOPTED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TEXT

Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, Area III, Pohick Planning District, amended through 3-21-2023, Overview, Concept For Future Development, page 3.

" As envisioned in the Concept for Future Development, the Pohick Planning District includes both Suburban Neighborhoods and Low Density Residential Areas. Existing development in this district is generally consistent with the Concept.

The Low Density Residential portion of this Planning District generally includes the area west of Ox Road, with the exception of the North Hill subdivision located in the southwest quadrant of the Braddock Road and Ox Road intersection. In addition, the area east of Ox Road, west of the Fairfax County Parkway, and north of Burke Lake Road, is designated as a Low Density Residential Area.

These areas are designated as such in order to protect them from more intensive development. Low Density Residential Areas may include environmentally sensitive parts of the county that require special measures to ensure their protection. In the Pohick Planning District, these environmentally sensitive areas include the Occoquan Reservoir and South Run watersheds. Development in these areas is generally limited to residential uses at densities of .1-.2 dwelling unit per acre and .2-.5 dwelling unit per acre, depending upon location; limited commercial and institutional uses may also be appropriate for these areas.

The remainder of the Pohick Planning District is designated as Suburban Neighborhoods. These areas are planned to include a wide range of housing types, depending upon location, and should be protected by ensuring compatibility between land uses. In addition to these residential areas, there is land planned for supplemental neighborhood-serving commercial uses, public facilities, and institutional uses.

#### MAJOR OBJECTIVES

The primary planning objectives in the Pohick Planning District are the following:

- Protect the Occoquan Reservoir and South Run watersheds;
- Preserve the rural and semi-rural character of the Occoquan Reservoir watershed through careful review of nonresidential uses requiring special exception or special permit approval;
- Preserve stable residential areas through infill development of a character and intensity/density that is compatible with existing residential areas;
- Identify, preserve and promote awareness of heritage resources through research, survey and community involvement;
- Protect the Pohick Creek watershed and its tributaries, the Sideburn and Rabbit Branches; and
- Preserve the existing semi-rural, treed suburban character of residential areas in the Pohick watershed."

Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, Area III, Pohick Planning District, amended through 3-21-2023, P5-Dominion Community Planning Sector, Concept For Future Development, page 55.

#### "RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Land Use

A portion of the Dominion Planning Sector is developed as stable residential neighborhoods. Infill development in these neighborhoods should be of a compatible use,

type and intensity in accordance with the guidance provided by the Policy Plan under Land Use Objectives 8 and 14.

Where substantial parcel consolidation is specified, it is intended that such consolidations will provide for projects that function in a well-designed efficient manner and provides for the development of unconsolidated parcels in conformance with the Area Plan.

6. The majority of the area located south and west of Ox Road, which drains into the Occoquan River below the reservoir, should be developed with residential use at .1-.2 dwelling unit per acre or .2-.5 dwelling unit per acre, as shown on the Plan map. Sewer service should not be provided to this area except as may be provided in accord with the Public Facilities section of the Policy Plan that addresses expansion of the sewer service area."

## PROPOSED PLAN AMENDMENT

The proposed Plan amendment considers an option for residential use at a density of up to 2-3 du/ac. Development under this option could yield up to 23 single-family detached homes. An illustrative concept plan submitted with the concurrent rezoning application is shown in Figure 2 and includes 23 dwellings, a park with a tot lot and approximately 30 visitor parking spaces, with access from "Old" Ox Road.



Figure 2. Illustrative Concept Plan, Source: Laurel Highlands LLC, CDP/FDP 2024-MV-00016

# ANALYSIS

## Land Use

The Comprehensive Plan's Concept for Future Development Map notes that the area east of Ox Road is planned as a Suburban Neighborhood. Suburban Neighborhoods contain a broad mix of allowable residential densities, styles, parks and open spaces. The county's established residential neighborhoods are generally designated as Suburban Neighborhoods, and are considered to be areas with little to no change expected. Key considerations for suburban neighborhoods include the provision of parks and recreation facilities to serve residents, preventing adverse traffic impacts on nearby lower-density residential uses, reducing reliance on the automobile, and, for development that proposes a significantly higher intensity, providing primary access from major or secondary roadways which do not traverse adjacent residential areas. Given these key elements, compatible density, the provision of park spaces, multimodal circulation, and provision of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure have been prioritized in the review the amendment along with the other items identified in the Board authorization.

#### Land Use Pattern

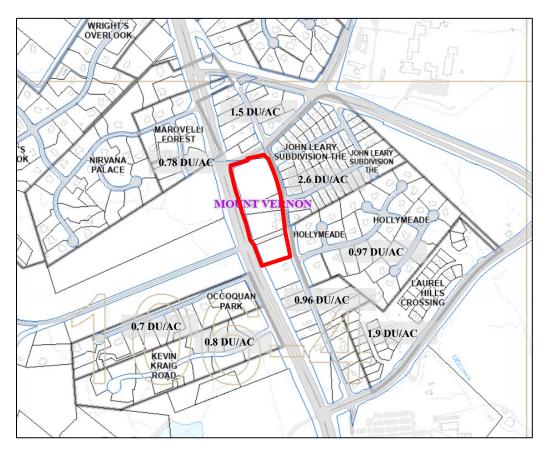
The proposal for residential use at a density of 2-3 du/ac would not change the basic residential form recommended in the adopted Comprehensive Plan, which is for low density single-family detached residential use. This is in contrast to the original SSPA, which had proposed single-family attached use at a much higher density, which is not otherwise present or planned in the vicinity. Staff does not have concerns regarding the proposed detached residential use; additional analysis is provided below regarding density and compatibility.

#### Land Use Density

As described in the Planning History section above, the existing R-1 zoning district designation for the site and surrounding area predates and is higher than the adopted Plan Recommendations. Given this inconsistency, compatibility was assessed by evaluating the proposal relative to the surrounding existing densities. Figure 3 illustrates the built ("effective") densities of the neighborhoods that surround the subject property. The existing densities of the surrounding neighborhood exceed the maximum planned density of 0.2-0.5 du/ac, but largely conform to the existing R-1 zoning (1 du/ac). The Cavanaugh Crossing development directly to the east of the subject property is built at a density of 2.6 du/ac, which is slightly lower than the proposed 2.86 du/ac on the subject site. However, the lot sizes at Cavanaugh Crossing are actually slightly smaller than the lots on the proposed site, the density discrepancy is due to Cavanaugh Crossing's road network and several undeveloped remnant parcels within the subdivision, which encompass portions of that neighborhood's land area. Although the proposed density of the subject site is slightly higher than the surrounding area, the design of the project comports with the existing fabric of the neighborhood and would be compatible with the surrounding area. Figures 3, 4, and 5 provide renderings of how the project would fit into the fabric of the surrounding neighborhood, and how the architectural style of the proposed dwelling units would fit with that of the homes in the area. These renderings only show the front views of the proposed units, and it is expected that renderings will be provided that show all four sides of the units as they present to the surrounding neighborhood, during the review of any rezoning application. As noted, the lot sizes in the proposed development are slightly larger than those of the Cavanaugh Crossing neighborhood to the east, and slightly smaller than some of the properties to north and south of the subject property.

The Pohick Planning District, in general, has kept a rural or semi-rural character by maintaining a very low density to serve as a land use Best Management Practice (BMP) to protect the Occoquan Reservoir, which is a major source of drinking water for the County. As a result, an increase in residential density above the established R-1 zoning density should be considered

carefully to ensure similar environmental benefits related to water quality and/or tree preservation/canopy, as discussed in greater detail below.



#### Figure 3. Surrounding Area Densities

Figure 4. Proposed Plan Neighborhood Layout



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Figures 5 and 6. Proposed Dwelling Unit Architecture



## Transportation

#### Active Transportation

*Pedestrian Network:* The pedestrian network in the area currently includes 10-foot-wide shared use path (SUP) facilities, with greater than 5-foot-wide grass buffers, along the east side of Route 123. There are no pedestrian facilities on the west side of Route 123, or either side of Hooes Road or "Old" Ox Road. The Countywide Trails Plan calls for a major paved trail along the east side of Route 123, which has been constructed.

*Pedestrian Level of Comfort (PLOC):* PLOC is a way of measuring pedestrian access that scores pedestrian circulation conditions from 1) very comfortable to 5) no pathway (no facility). As noted above, a facility along the east side of Route 123 has been constructed according to the recommendations of the Countywide Trails Plan, and the portion of Route 123 that forms the western border of the subject area is therefore given a PLOC score of 1. The other borders of the subject area on the north (Hooes Road), east and south ("Old" Ox Road) and the intersection of Route 123 and Hooes Road are given a PLOC score of 5.

*Bicycle Network:* The bicycle network in the area uses the same shared use path, mentioned above, along the east side of Route 123.

*Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress:* The bicycle level of traffic stress (BLTS) was also assessed. The BLTS ratings consider variables such as presence and type of bicycle facility, and the posted speed limit on the roadway. BLTS is used to enhance future recommendations. A roadway/facility rated BLTS 1 is "low stress", or comfortable for most bicyclists. A roadway/facility rated BLTS 4 is "high stress" or uncomfortable for most bicyclists. The bicycle network in the area currently has overall ratings of "less comfortable" and "use caution." The previously mentioned shared use path on Route 123, however, offers a more comfortable, less

stressful alternative. "Old" Ox Road, which assumes bicycles ride in mixed traffic, has a "most comfortable" rating, due to low traffic volumes and low vehicular speeds.

#### Transit Services

This site is not currently served by any bus routes. The nearest bus service, Fairfax Connector Route 494, is a little over 2 miles from the site, going east along Lorton Road, providing limited stops and express services. To the north along Silverbrook Road, there are Fairfax Connector Routes 305, 371 and 373. There is an approximately 2-mile walking distance from the site to the nearest bus stop for residents who choose to utilize the Fairfax Connecter Route 494.

## Trip Generation

The resulting trip generation from the newly proposed land uses would produce approximately 221 additional weekday trips above what the existing development would generate, while increasing AM and PM peak hour trips by 17 and 22, respectively. Compared to the current Comprehensive Plan, there are approximate trip increases of 209 daily, 16 in the AM peak hour, and 20 in the PM peak hour. Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has determined that the anticipated impact of the proposal, coupled with the developed transportation network, does not warrant a more detailed transportation assessment.

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Development Types	Units	Daily	AN	/I Peak	Hour	PN	M Peak	Hour
Existing Use			In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Single-Family Detached								
Housing (210)	3	40	1	2	3	2	1	3
Adopted Plan			In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Single-Family Detached								
Housing (210)	4	52	1	3	4	3	2	5
Proposed Plan			In	Out	Total	In	Out	Total
Single-Family Detached								
Housing (210)	23	261	5	15	20	16	9	25
Impact Over Existing Use		221	4	13	17	14	8	22
Impact Over Adopted Plan		209	4	12	16	13	7	20

#### Table 1. Vehicle Trip Generation

## Recommendations

Safety, comfort, and accessibility for active transportation users travelling between the subject site and surrounding communities should be a priority. The Board authorization also spoke to multimodal connectivity as a consideration with this Plan amendment. Therefore, staff recommends, on both the north and south sides of Hooes Road, a minimum 8- foot-wide shared use facility, with a 4- to 8-foot-wide landscape buffer. Wider buffer yards could be considered to accommodate shade street trees. Staff also recommends a 6- to 8-foot-wide pedestrian pathway along "Old" Ox Road to allow pedestrian connectivity to Hooes Road and Workhouse Road. Buffer yards could be considered to accommodate shade street trees. The intersection of Route 123 and Hooes Road would benefit from the installation of controlled high visibility crosswalks

with a raised pedestrian refuge island. Staff has included Plan text for these recommendations, which would be evaluated with the concurrent rezoning application.

# **Public Utilities**

The capacity of the current water and wastewater systems are adequate to accommodate the proposed increase in development potential.

## Schools

The schools serving the subject site are South County High School (HS), South County Middle School (MS), and Halley Elementary School (ES). The Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) current and projected five-year enrollment and capacities (exclusive of the proposed development) for those schools are shown in Figure 7.

School	Program Capacity SY 2023-24	Membership SY 2023-24	Capacity Utilization SY2023-24	Projected Membership SY 2028-29	Projected Capacity Utilization SY 2028-29
South County HS	2471	2183	88%	2121	86%
South County MS	1,016	967	95%	969	95%
Halley ES	753	614	82%	644	86%

Figure 7. FCPS current student enrollment and capacities

Source: FCPS, Adopted Capital Improvement Program FY 2025-29, February 2024.

## Figure 8. Potential Student Yield – Adopted Comprehensive Plan

School Level	Planned Number of Housing Units	Potential Student Yield
High	4	1
Middle	4	0
Elementary	4	1
Total Student Count		2

Source: FCPS, 2022 Countywide Student Yield Ratios, June 2022.

Based on the FCPS projections, the high school currently has and will maintain a moderate capacity; the middle school has and will be approaching a capacity deficit; the elementary school has and will maintain moderate capacity.

The potential student yield of the subject property by school level, calculated using the FCPS 2022 countywide student yield ratios based on the number of housing units, is shown in Figure 5.

School Level	Proposed Number of Housing Units	Potential Student Yield		
High	23	4		
Middle	23	2		
Elementary	23	6		
<b>Total Student Count</b>		12		

#### Figure 9. Potential student yield – Proposed Comprehensive Plan

Source: FCPS, 2022 Countywide Student Yield Ratios, June 2022.

Based on FCPS projections, the proposed Plan amendment for residential use at 2-3 du/ac would yield an estimated 12 new students (4 HS, 2 MS, and 6 ES), as compared to the current Plan. The 2028-9 projected school capacities for South County High School and Middle School, and Halley Elementary School all show sufficient capacity to accommodate the projected number of new students if the proposed Plan was implemented. The impacts of the proposed amendment to the Plan may also occur beyond the current five-year projection horizon and conditions of a school and/or school boundaries may change by the time the proposed residential density is realized.

#### **Parks and Recreation**

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) analysis of the proposed amendment finds that existing parks in the Pohick Planning District meet only a portion of the demand for parkland generated by residential development in the service area. The Parks and Recreation element of the Policy Plan provides guidelines for the provision of parks and recreation services based on population. The proposed Plan amendment would yield an estimated 63 new residents who would need access to recreational and park facilities. The FCPS service level guidelines estimate that number of residents would generate the need for approximately 0.32 acres of Local Suburban parkland, and 0.82 acres of district or countywide parkland. On-site park spaces should include a combination of walking trails, play areas, amenities, gathering spaces, landscaping, and other local-serving recreational facilities to attract and promote social interaction among community members to address considerations in the Board authorization. Language should also be included to enhance protection of natural resources that support ecological services and quality of life benefits for residents within this development as well as an archaeological survey of all undisturbed area proposed for development.

The provision of specific onsite parkland, contributions to address countywide parks impacts, and pedestrian improvements will be evaluated further at the time of a specific rezoning application.

#### Noise

The Policy Plan, Environment element, policy b. recommends that new development should not expose people in their homes to noise levels above DNL 45 dBA or, in excess of DNL 65 dBA in outdoor recreation areas of homes. The Board authorization noted that special consideration should be given to noise impacts. The proposed Plan amendment includes several homes to be located along the frontage of Route 123 that may potentially be exposed to transportation-generated noise above the recommended levels stated in the Policy Plan. Mitigation measures

should be included in a noise study submitted with any concurrent rezoning application that reduces the indoor and outdoor noise levels to acceptable levels. Depending on the final results of any noise studies, the potential maximum yield and/or location of dwellings could be impacted. Staff is comfortable that no additional noise impact mitigation recommendations are necessary in the Plan to address the issue.

## Tree Cover, Landscaping and Open Space

The subject area currently contains a substantial amount of tree cover that would necessarily be reduced in order to accommodate additional residential development on the site. Preserving mature trees in the required common open space areas, in excess of minimum tree preservation requirements, should be a priority during rezoning review in order to minimize the extent of tree canopy loss and ensure buffers to neighboring properties.

# **Green Building Practices**

The Environment element of the Policy Plan also recommends that proposals for residential development incorporate green building practices sufficient to attain certification under an established residential green building rating system that incorporates multiple green building concepts and that includes an ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes designation or a comparable level of energy performance. Where such zoning proposals seek development at or above the mid-point of the Plan density range, it is recommended that the minimum county expectations be exceeded, and achievement in the area of green building practices commensurately increase.

# Water Quality and Stormwater Management

The subject property is located primarily in the Occoquan Watershed. As noted, the current land use guidance has been effectively used to maintain high water quality standards in the district to protect the Occoquan. The Board authorization noted that special consideration be given to watershed impacts as a result of an increase in density.

There is existing or proposed stormwater infrastructure and floodplain easements downstream of the site across and west of Ox Road. It appears there is a large sump area on the site adjacent to Ox Road and is in an inadequate outfall drainage area. Due to the location of the site and the proposed increase in planned density, staff recommends stormwater management quality and quantity management controls above the minimum requirements to protect downstream stormwater infrastructure, not increase flooding potential downstream, and protect the Occoquan Reservoir. BMP/Low Impact Development (LID) site design should be utilized in accordance with state and local requirements to minimize the impact of changes in land use on surface and groundwater systems, with the primary goal of mimicking predevelopment site hydrology. Any redevelopment proposal on the site will be rigorously reviewed during the rezoning review process for conformance with the proposed guidance and countywide and District-wide policies recommending increased attention to stormwater management in this area.

## CONCLUSION

The proposed Plan amendment conforms with the Areawide recommendations and the Concept For Future Development for Suburban Neighborhoods for residential development that is of a compatible use, density, scale and character with surrounding uses. The proposed density would be consistent with the adjacent Cavenaugh Crossing subdivision's density, which is the most proximate neighborhood to the subject site and would help establish a consistent community character on both sides of "Old" Ox Road, while mitigating any impacts of increased density through attention to environmental, multimodal, open space, and parks and tree preservation.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Comprehensive Plan be modified as shown below. Text proposed to be added is shown as <u>underlined</u> and text proposed to be deleted is shown with a <del>strikethrough</del>. Text shown to be replaced is noted as such.

ADD: Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, Area III, Pohick Planning District, P5-Dominion Community Planning Sector, as amended through 3-21-2023, Land Use, Recommendations, page 55:

"<u>13.</u> As an option, Tax Map Parcels 106-4 ((1)) 17, 18, 19 (part, east of Route 123), 27 and 27A are planned for residential use at a density of 2-3 dwelling units per acre provided the following conditions are met:

- <u>Stormwater management quality and quantity controls above the minimum</u> requirements should be provided.
- Commitments to preserving as much of the existing tree cover as possible and identification and preservation of significant trees should be addressed during the review of any rezoning application.
- <u>Onsite park spaces programmed with trails, play areas, amenities, gathering spaces, and landscaping should be provided.</u>
- <u>A Phase I archaeological survey of all undisturbed areas not previously surveyed for</u> <u>cultural resources should be conducted to determine the presence or absence of</u> <u>archaeological sites prior to site development.</u>
- Enhancements to the pedestrian and bicycle network of facilities along Route 123, Ox Road and Hooes Road should be provided. Such enhancements should include implementation of the major paved trail along Hooes Road, and a sidewalk with buffer along Ox Road. Opportunities to connect to and fill gaps in surrounding bicycle and pedestrian network should be explored to ensure that new residents can safely walk or bike in the area.

• <u>Provide safe and comfortable crossings for all key legs of the intersection of Route</u> <u>123 and Hooes Road.</u>

## **MODIFY FIGURE:**

Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, Area III, Pohick Planning District, as amended through 3-21-2023, P5-Dominion Community Planning Sector, Figure 23, "P5-Dominion Community Planning Sector Land Use Recommendations, General Locator Map," page 57 to add the new recommendation (#13) to the figure.

## COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN MAP:

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map will not change.

# COUNTYWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLAN MAP:

The Countywide Transportation Plan Map will not change.