

Buckroe Bay Front Initiative

Recommended Design Option Choice for Lots B With Vision D-1, Facts, and Ideas

A Citizens Report

November 20, 2006

To

Hampton City Council
Hampton City Manager
City of Hampton, Planning Department
Hampton, Virginia

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Vice Mayor Randy A. Gilliland
Councilman Joseph H. Spencer, II
Councilwoman Angela L. Leary
Councilman Rhet Tignor
Councilman Charlie N. Sapp
Councilman Paige V. Washington
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By

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The Buckroe Bay Front is a “*Sanctuary for the Spirit*” and the “*Family Room*” of our city
“...a room meant for play and relaxation” for all people. --GSL

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Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
At all the times you can
For all the people you can
As long as ever you can

– John Wesley’s Rule

Introduction

The City of Hampton sponsored the Buckroe Community Design Sessions on October 3, 4, and 5, 2006 in an effort to gather input from citizens regarding the planning of the former Buckroe Beach Amusement Park site, known as Lots B.

In response, this report recommends and discusses optimal solutions to the disposition of Lots B and offers a modified design vision for consideration. Important facts and ideas presented shed light on the issue offering positive alternatives for the Buckroe area.

The information presented is reasonable, practical, and shows a “natural” progression for our City’s growth and in keeping with the history and uniqueness of the area without taking away a great quality of life area from the citizenry.

Recommendations

1. Design Option D

After studying the four design options (Appendix A) presented to the public on October 5, 2006 by the Hampton Planning Department and Mr. Frederick Bonci of LaQuatra Bonci Associates, I recommend **Option D** as the optimal design for revitalizing the Buckroe Bay Front.

Design Option D closely represents the ideas and opinions expressed by the many supporters who have crossed paths with this issue over the past two years, including the wishes and desires of 12,000 Hampton citizens who signed the “Petition” (Appendix C) to preserve Lots B as a city park for our now and future generations.

Why the City of Hampton should choose Design Option D:

Option D --

- Keeps Lots B for the public's continued use, fun, and relaxation
- Provides a large public waterfront gathering place uniting visitors and locals from a wide-range of economic levels and age groups keeping in conformity with the history of Buckroe
- Is arranged in such a way that the public can view the Chesapeake Bay from both a distance and up close
- Develops tourist attraction with park-like activities: such as a Ferris wheel, miniature golf course, carousel, museum, gazebos, fitness areas, and large fields for special events such as triathlons, boat races, car shows, art shows, family reunions, church groups, weddings, etc.
- Permits additional revenue generating opportunities such as gift shops, eateries, beachwear, ice cream and coffee shops, etc.
- Offers recreational activities with dedicated parking areas

- Provides ample off-street parking, requisite to any balanced plan
- Shows no on-street parking on First Street in the Lots B area and in surrounding neighborhoods
- Places the carousel or other such structures on the back B lot away from high tides and storm elements
- Reverses and moves the pavilion to direct entertainment noise out over the Bay rather than directing it throughout the surrounding neighborhoods
- Will stand alone on the East Coast as a regional jewel and major attraction on the Chesapeake Bay

2. Vision D-1 improves Design Option D by adding enhancements from Design Options A and B

Design Options A and B (Appendix A) depict an enhanced neighborhood to the South along Point Comfort Avenue and Resort Boulevard that fronts the Lots B Park and the Bay Front. Transferring those enhanced neighborhood designs to Option D creates an optimal vision hereinafter referred to as Vision D-1.

Vision D-1 shown in Figure 1 includes all of the aforementioned excellent reasons for selecting design Option D. It also includes three additional enhancements that make it an even better choice than Option D.

The three enhancements shown in Vision D-1 are listed below:

1. rounds and softens the corner of Point Comfort Avenue and Resort Boulevard,
2. adds a critical mass of housing to front the Park and Bay area along Point Comfort Avenue and does not impede on the rights of the citizens to keep Lots B as public land, and
3. adds a parking strip along the waterfront at Resort Boulevard for short-term parking that would enable elderly and handicapped people who cannot leave their vehicles to have a place to sit and enjoy the views of the Chesapeake Bay.

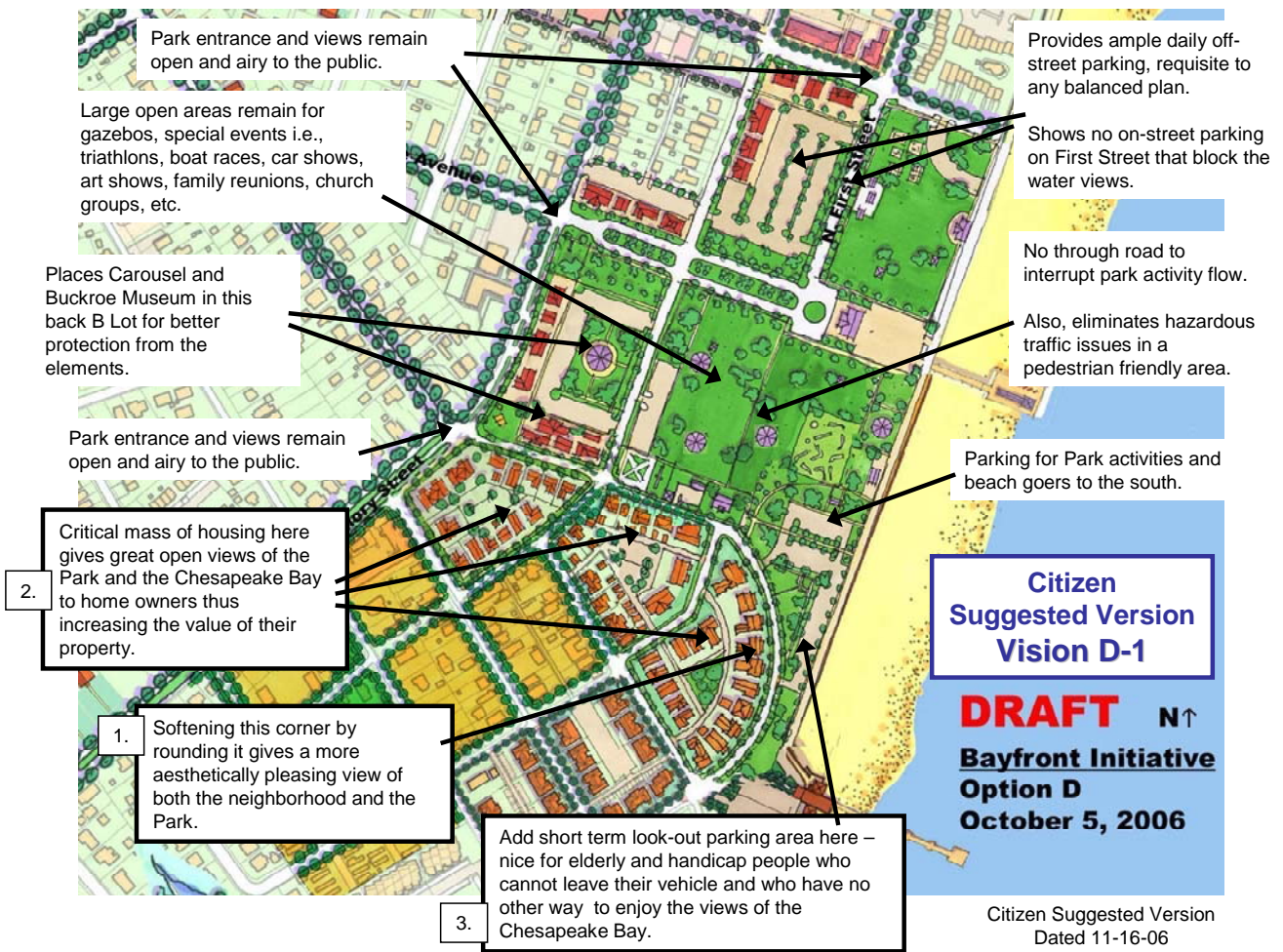


Figure 1. Vision D-1, a “Tweaking” of Design Option D

For easier viewing, Figure 2 below shows Vision D-1 without comments.

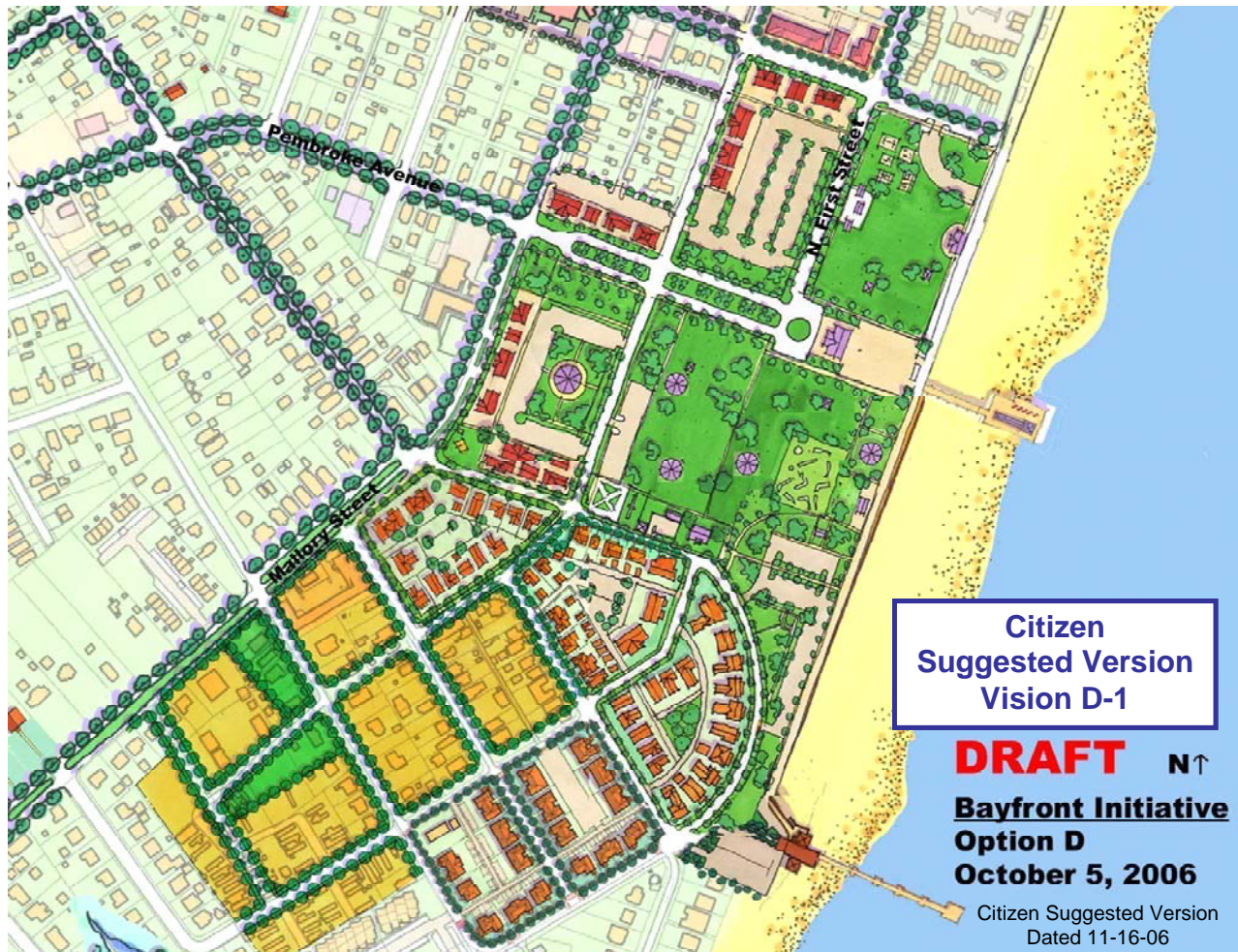


Figure 2. Vision D-1, a “Tweaking” of Design Option D without Added Comments

Important Things to Remember and Consider

1. Keep Lots B Public

The need for saving Lots B from residential development is at the forefront of this issue because the Buckroe Bay Front is unique, not only to Hampton but to the entire Tidewater region. Even with over 64 miles of shoreline, Lots B are the only remaining public open space on Tidewater’s Chesapeake Bay waterfront available to accommodate large public gatherings.

Land Banked Property – Some arguments have been made that Lots B were purchased over twenty years ago expressly for the purpose of development. One only has to look along Hampton’s shoreline to see why that way of thinking must be corrected.

Over twenty years ago --

- All Buckroe beaches were easily accessible by the public at-large. There was not a private gated community in the Salt Ponds nor were the Cantamar and Morningview townhouses sitting along the stretch of beach from Buckroe to Pilot Avenues,
- The Chesapeake Landing gated community was not sitting on the site of the Bay Shore amusement park,
- Grandview Beach was accessible. Public access there is now diminished or nonexistent because of residential development, and
- There were a lot less people and more easily accessible public waterfronts in Hampton.

Purposes change, and we have experienced such change in Buckroe with past developments along First Street and with the development at the Salt Ponds.

In 1974, Buckroe redevelopment plans in the areas of First Street were “*amended to permit utilization of the land for residential purposes as opposed to planned resort uses, such as motel and restaurants...*” [1]

In 1966, the City of Hampton purchased the Salt Ponds area to develop it “*primarily along recreational lines*” to be used as a “*new vacation oriented area in conjunction with Buckroe Beach.*” [2]

These two major events in Buckroe prove purposes do indeed change, and with both of these changes, the citizens have lost great gathering places, wonderful water views, and available public parking.

Furthermore, the City of Hampton is currently holding many millions of dollars worth of public land elsewhere in the city (as noted at a recent Hampton City Council meeting). Therefore, it is not necessary to sell Lots B for monetary gain at the expense of other important values... values Lots B have to the citizen shareholders measured only by the wealth of shared and individual memories held by all who visit there.

Buckroe’s Lots B will only continue to increase in both monetary and intrinsic value, and preserving them will enhance the quality of life for all citizens and visitors, and should prove to continue to be a very wise investment for our City.

2. Improve the Buckroe Bay Front Responsibly

Improvements to Buckroe are much needed and welcomed – but not condominiums, other housing, or industry on Lots B. Hampton residents, tourists, and visitors want open space, ample off-street parking, good restaurants, shops, improved restrooms, and park amenities on the Bay Front.

A beautifully landscaped parking lot as shown in Option D provides daily public Park and Beach area parking and eliminates constant on-street parking in surrounding neighborhoods. On-street parking may be necessary during special events, but daily Park and Beach parking in older neighborhoods will only add blight and potential crime. Hampton city leadership should act to prevent neighborhood-parking problems and blight in all Buckroe neighborhoods. There is a perfectly good solution for beach parking as shown in design Option D. Vision D-1 not only keeps the parking lot in the North as

shown in Option D, but it adds another parking area to the South for activities and beach goers to that area.

The rich water environment, open spaces, and recreational offerings are among the most important quality of life factors Hampton residents and other residents in our area value. The Buckroe Bay Front offers this to the many residents who do not have or who cannot afford any other means to access waterfront property or view the wonderful Chesapeake Bay in quiet or stormy times. Improving Lots B responsibly, as shown in Option D with the enhancements in Vision D-1, will give everyone all of this and more.

2.1 Create a Community Fitness Area

Buckroe, the “first health resort established in America.” [3, 4] Hampton has a unique and rare opportunity to resurrect the nostalgia of 1610 by creating a fitness area.

We have the setting at Buckroe Beach on which to construct a conveniently located fitness village with the soothing backdrop of the Bay to enhance an array of quality outdoor activities catering to all ages.

Option D with Vision D-1 enhancements provide adequate space that will not cramp anyone or any group involved in fitness related activities such as:

- Fitness trails with training stations at different stages throughout the park and beach area
- Bike rentals for exercise and scenic rides along the shoreline
- Tai Chi, Martial Arts practices, and similar activities held in open park areas
- Games such as kick ball, playing catch – baseball, football, Frisbee, etc.
- Kite flying, hopscotch, shuffleboard, swing sets, etc,
- Continued use of the SS Buckroe playground

Do not forget the great and wonderful exercise benefits from dancing. With today’s current Buckroe pavilion, following a practice that began over 100 years ago with a featured large pavilion for dancing, Buckroe has been a famous gathering place for dancing by the young and old, providing good clean fun and exercise for everyone!

3. Design Options A and B are the Least Desirable Options, and Option C Lacks Critical Parking

Selling parts of Lots B for private residential housing, as depicted in Options A and B (Appendix A), make Options A and B the least desirable choices for a Bay Front design.

Will residential development on Lots B “clean up” the neighborhood?

Residential development as depicted in Options A and B is not a deterrent to crime, just as taking away a public recreational area from Hampton citizens and our tourists will not solve the problems of crime and blight. We need to rely on the Hampton Police Department to patrol our streets and parks and not sacrifice precious treasured land at Buckroe as a solution to crime control. Any personnel or

equipment police needs should be addressed at a Hampton City Council meeting by the Hampton Chief of Police or his spokesperson.

The residential housing shown on all three Lots B in design Options A and B takes away Hampton's diminishing waterfront property from many and gives it to only a few. Selection of either of these design options will be at the expense of all Hampton taxpayers. Losing the public's valuable waterfront property in Buckroe is not what the majority of Hampton taxpayers want as indicated by the more than 12,000 Hampton resident petition signers and by the many citizens who have expressed their desire to save this land.

Currently, the objective of achieving a critical mass of new housing for the Bay Front is being addressed in the area to the South of the Lots B on the property recently acquired by the City of Hampton. This area, considered blighted, is being replaced by a new development of high-end housing. This new development will front both the Chesapeake Bay and the Lots B park area giving residents spectacular water and land views. It offers a solution to the critical mass of new housing requirement without compromising any of the B Lots.

Although design Option C (Appendix A) preserves Lots B for public use, it does not include ample daily off-street parking. Ample off-street parking is requisite to any balanced plan for a popular beachfront area.

4. The Buckroe Bay Front – An Important Part of Hampton's History

Historically, the best of Buckroe has always been the bay front. For hundreds of years, Lots B have been available for the enjoyment of the people, and the land fronting the Chesapeake Bay, bounded by Point Comfort Avenue to the South, Mallory Street to the West, and Buckroe Avenue to the North has always been used for relaxation and recreation. See the chronological list of events below for a fascinating glimpse into Buckroe's past.

1610 **“Buck Roe, the First Health Resort**, (authenticated by Hampton Historical Society Map 1959)” “Noted from Colonial days to the present time for its generally healthful climate and invigorating saltwater bathing.” [4]

1617 “The first mention of the name “Buckroe” is found in records dating back to 1617. Known even as a section or area called Buck Roe. Other spellings found were Buch Roe – Buck Row, Bucke Roro, Buckerowe”

“The name “Buckroe,” however, is taken from Buckrose in Yorkshire England. It is identified with the ancient Wapentake of Buc-Cros!”

“Wapentake (a division similar to a Lord) was the name they used in England for meeting places that were popular long before there were houses built – large enough to hold big gatherings.” [5]

1894 **“First Public Bathhouse at Buckroe – 1894”** “Mr. Edward B. Chifes, a well known and popular business man in Hampton bought a lot on the beach facing Chesapeake Bay and built the first public bathhouse at Buckroe...” [4]

- 1897 **“Buckroe Beach Hotel and Pavilion – 1897”** [4]
- ~1900 **“Early 1900’s – Buckroe Beach”** “...Buckroe could boast of a large new hotel, bathhouse, dancing pavilion, bowling alleys, a small merry-go-round, small Ferris Wheel, and casino...” [4]
- 1944 P.V. Stieffen purchased the Buckroe Beach Hotel and Amusement Park. Mr. Stieffen and his sons **“developed it into a large modern family park.”** [6]
- 1950s “About a half a million people visited the park each season during its heyday in the 1950s and early 1960s.” [7]
- 1985 The Buckroe Beach Amusement Park closes.
- 1986 “Hampton City Council agrees to buy Buckroe Beach Amusement Park and its merry-go-round for \$2 million and the Salt Ponds property for \$3.5 million. **Residents and city officials agree to create a 10-acre beachfront park and reserve the adjoining 10 acres one block inland as open space.**” [8]
- 2005 Hampton City Council approves the “2005 Buckroe Master Plan” with the condition to “tweak” the Bay Front Initiative...the old site of the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park, otherwise known as Lots B, which was slated for high-density residential development.
- More than 12,000 Hampton citizens protest the selling of the City owned adjoining 10 acres of beachfront park (Lots B) by signing a “Petition” to keep the property public and for the enjoyment of the now and future generations.**
- 2006 Hampton City Council requests professional park planner, LaQuatra Bonci Associates to develop several design options for the Buckroe Bay Front. Four design Options presented place the public in a current and “critical” public comment phase.

This glimpse through Buckroe’s history shows the extreme importance of preserving Lots B for its open space and for its place in history meant as a public gathering place.

There is value in protecting history. One should never rush into destroying history until they have done their background research to ensure they protect those things that are worth protecting as indicated in the events displayed in the timeline above.

Buckroe speaks to the history of Hampton, and Option D with enhancements from Vision D-1 will ensure future protection of Buckroe keeping the unique, historic features that are the best of Buckroe and ensuring its continued use as a public gathering place for enjoyment and relaxation.

4.1 Buckroe - Important to Hampton, a City of “Firsts”

As indicated above, Buckroe is home to at least two major “Firsts” for the City of Hampton:

- In 1610 Buckroe was known to be the “First” Health Resort in America
- In 1894 the “First” public Bathhouse was built at Buckroe

Hampton only has to save this area and landscape it in order to add another “First.” We have the opportunity to create a wonderfully unique public gateway to the Chesapeake Bay...on the last remaining public open space available that is large enough to accommodate large gatherings. Such vision will showcase our most beautiful and unique waterfront and will bring in revenue from visitors and tourists alike that will benefit and glorify our entire City for generations to come.

A park designed using a “fitness” theme as described earlier could be a major revenue producing attraction with the right mix of special events, activities, and services. The great natural offerings of such a Bay Front park will serve as remedies for stress and would be a great deterrent to obesity that is prevalent in our society. Such a place would be unique and a plus for any city and its residents.

Implementation of the various Hampton Master Plans now on the boards undoubtedly will bring more people to our area and more business to Hampton. Hampton can use our wide-open green areas and city park at Buckroe coupled with our wonderful beach to “wow” new residents, friends, and guests. Option D with Vision D-1 enhancements will allow people who will buy or move into all the new residential housing going up throughout the city to have a place to get away to breath and an outdoors area in which to seek the serenity of our beach or the attractions of our Bay Front playground for young and old alike.

Not only will a newly revised public Buckroe Bay Front highlight our City, it will also be a huge selling point. With Option D/Vision D-1 in place, Buckroe’s large park will be the Hampton version of Central Park and a “First” unique public gateway to the Bay.

It is important to recognize what makes the Buckroe Bay Front area unique and will keep the character and charm is the continuation and availability of public space. Therefore, for Buckroe to reach its greatest potential, and while honoring the public’s requests not to sell any of the Lots B, a magnificent waterfront park should be designed for the Bay Front area without compromising any parts of the Lots B to private residential housing.

5. Feasibility

Is it feasible to develop Lots B as a unique public gateway to the Chesapeake Bay?

As stated by Planning Director Terry O’Neill, “...[I agree] *a big beach park could be a regional draw and centerpiece for Hampton.* ...[I do not agree] *parks don't revitalize neglected neighborhoods like Buckroe. New and rehabbed homes would.*”[9]

It will be a major sacrifice to trade the potential of Buckroe for reasons of revitalizing the neighborhoods when the area could be “*a regional draw and centerpiece for Hampton,*” especially when it has been proven that parks are in fact responsible for revitalizing neighborhoods.

Neal R. Peirce offers a compelling case for saving parks in his article “The greening of Chicago reaps a huge payout,” Daily Press, May 30, 2006”:

“Welcome to a park junkie’s paradise,” Alderman Mary Ann Smith told an Urban Park and Recreation Summit of directors and advocates from major cities, gathering in Chicago last week. Since the late 1980s, she said, Chicago’s new and remade parks, its flowers and public art have begun to turn around many blighted, crime-ridden neighborhoods. “We’re creating places people want to be, not places people want to flee.”

In addition to the remarkable half-million trees planted during Delay’s tenure, many asphalt schoolyards have been converted to grass, vacant lots turned into community gardens, and trails, greenways and wildlife habitat developed along such waterways on the Chicago River.

One result: hundreds of millions of dollars invested in new housing, America’s most dramatic “back to the city” movement. Real estate values around Millennium Park have increased by at least \$1.2 billion. Greenery has helped Chicago expand its visitor and convention industry to \$9 billion a year.

And the phenomenon isn’t Chicago’s alone. Well-maintained parks, said John Compton, a parks expert from Texas A&M University, “are a city’s ‘wow’ factor – everyone loves greenery around them.” City councils that cut corners in park maintenance need a wakeup call, he suggested, because there’s clear evidence that from the founding of New York’s Central Park in the 1850s onward, parks have raised surrounding property values well above the cost of their construction.” [10]

Chicago has proved the feasibility of park creation and revitalization as a method for improving real estate values and by expanding its visitor and convention industry, and park expert John Compton reinforces a parks ‘wow’ factor, something Hampton can create most uniquely with the Buckroe Bay Front.

Buckroe is getting new homes in the most neglected neighborhood just south of Lots B, and one only has to tour the older neighborhood to the north of Lots B to see its charm with many homes there currently being rehabbed...an area that should be rehabbed and remain for its lasting historical contribution to the Buckroe area. With new housing and rehabbing of existing housing in place, and in keeping in conformity with the history of the area, realizing a great park area on Lots B is not only feasible but is also a natural progression for the enhancement of Buckroe...a community whose namesake “Buckroe” is meant for a place of gathering.

Conclusion and Request

On behalf of thousands of citizens and future generations, it is requested that “due diligence” be paid to the facts and ideas presented in this report, and as stewards of our City, it is requested that Council listen to the citizenry and choose Option D and consider Vision D-1 enhancements for the Buckroe Bay Front Initiative.

References:

- [1] “Development at Buckroe set at \$25-m,” by Carolyn Hines, The Times-Herald, Metro News, Thursday, March 21, 1974
- [2] “Hampton’s Vacation Coast,” by John Bowen, The Daily Press, New Dominion Magazine Section, December 25, 1966
- [3] <http://www.newrivernotes.com/va/cridlin1.htm>
- [4] “Notes On Buckroe 1610-1960,” Research by Jessie Skinner Anthony [Mr. Daniel Allen], Charter Member Hampton Historical Society, Charles H. Taylor Memorial Library, Pamphlet File, G 66.135. (Ref. Eyewitness Report of Residents)
- [5] “Notes On Buckroe 1610-1960,” Research by Jessie Skinner Anthony [Mr. Daniel Allen], Charter Member Hampton Historical Society, Charles H. Taylor Memorial Library, Pamphlet File, G 66.135. (Ref. Virginia Guide Book – 1957)
- [6] “Notes On Buckroe 1610-1960,” Research by Jessie Skinner Anthony [Mr. Daniel Allen], Charter Member Hampton Historical Society, Charles H. Taylor Memorial Library, Pamphlet File, G 66.130.
- [7] “Bye-bye Buckroe,” The Daily Press, September 2, 1985
- [8] “Buckroe adrift,” Stories by Troy Graham, Daily Press, A12, Sunday, January 16, 2000
- [9] “Is park idea for Buckroe feasible?” Wil LaViest, Daily Press, July 1, 2005
- [10] “The greening of Chicago reaps a huge payout,” Neal R. Peirce, Daily Press, May 30, 2006

Acknowledgements:

Thanks and appreciation to Sandra Canepa and Cecile Trevathan for their unrelenting contributions to this effort and for great leadership.

Many thanks to all of the petition signers for realizing the importance of protecting Lots B by taking the time out to sign the “Petition” and for passing the word around.

Special thanks to all the Hampton businesses for carrying the “Petition” and allowing citizens to sign the “Petition” in their establishments (Appendix B)...that speaks volumes to this issue.

Thanks to all of the many, many people who have taken action in one way or another to show support for this issue.

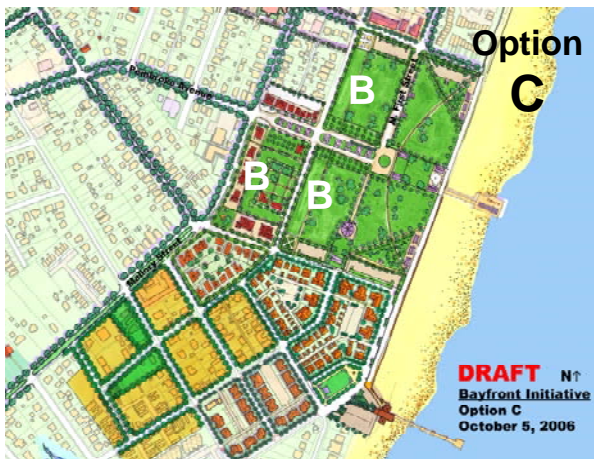
Appendix A:



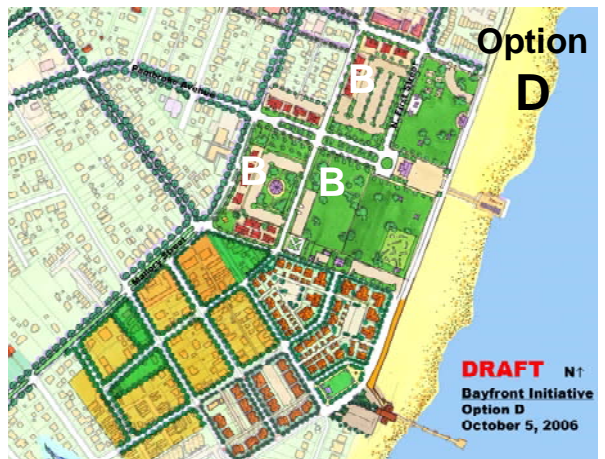
Option A: Shows high density housing, loss of public space, and insufficient public parking



Option B: Shows high density housing, loss of public space, and insufficient public parking



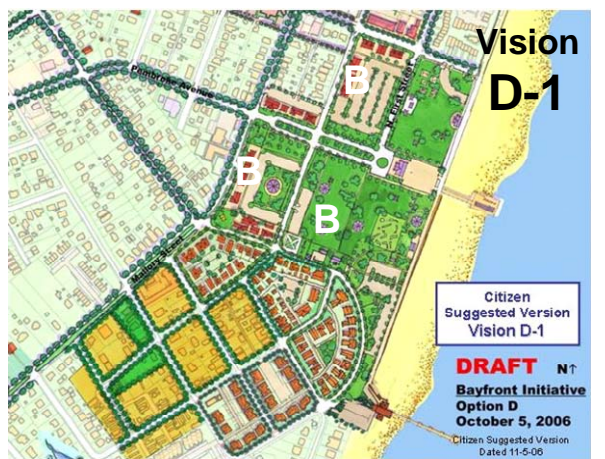
Options C: Keeps Lots B for continued public use



Option D: Keeps Lots B for continued public use, plus provides ample public parking

Vision D-1 shown on the right is a citizen-suggested “tweaking” of Option D.

Options D or Vision D-1 represent the optimal plan for a public park offering the most practical solution to the disposition of the approximately 10 acre parcel of land known as Lots B.



Vision D-1: A citizen-suggested “tweaking” of Option D

Figure A1. Options A, B, C, & D with Vision D-1

Appendix B:

List of Hampton Businesses Who Support the "Petition"

Affordable Printing E. Pembroke Avenue	Doggy Dayz Academy Copeland Drive, Hampton	Oasis Restaurant Kecoughtan Road
Andrea's Pizza Riverdale Shopping Center	Essence of Beauty W. Mercury Blvd	Peach Service Center Mellon Street, Phoebus
Anna's Pizza Buckroe Shopping Center	Gymnastics, Inc. Salter's Creek Road	Pembroke Animal Hospital Pembroke Avenue
Anna's Pizza Russo Village Shopping Center Armistead Avenue	Freed's Veterinary Hospital King Street	Phoebus Thrift Mellon Street
Armistead Animal Hospital Armistead Avenue	Grandview Beach Market Beach Road	Ricco's Pizza Langley Square W. Mercury Blvd
Beach Hardware Buckroe Shopping Center	Hat Trix Mallory Street, Phoebus	Ritz International Hair Design Coliseum Crossing
Big Horn Restaurant E. Pembroke Avenue	Hampton Animal Hospital Aberdeen Road	Rollens Barber and Hair Styling Shop N. King Street
Bill and Marie's Diner Buckroe Shopping Center	Hampton Dental Associates, Inc. North King Street	Sam's Barber Shop E. Pembroke Avenue
Brass Lantern Bar & Grill Buckroe Avenue	The Health Connection Armistead Ave & Mercury Blvd	Sarah's Irish Pub Mellon Street, Phoebus
The Box Outlet Willow Oaks Shopping Center	Hibbards Iron Words Aberdeen Road	Shabby Chic Downtown Hampton
Buckroe Bait & Tackle Buckroe Avenue	Jack's Restaurant E. Pembroke Avenue	Smokin' Joe's BBQ Pembroke Avenue
Cancun Restaurant King Street, Langley Gate	Jeff's Barber Shop Buckroe Avenue	Spare Times Bowling Armistead Avenue
Capri Pizza & Italian Restaurant Willow Oaks Shopping Center	Kartrez E. Pembroke Avenue	Style-4-U Hair Gallery King Street
Century Lanes Bowling Center Pembroke Avenue, Buckroe	La Bodega Hampton Wine Street, Downtown Hampton	Tommy's Restaurant W. Mercury Blvd
Checkered Flag Restaurant King Street, Langley Gate	Ling Nam Restaurant Langley Square W. Mercury Blvd	Tonya's Pet Center Langley Square
Coastal Creations Buckroe Beach	Mama Rosa's Restaurant Mercury Blvd, Phoebus	VanCosta's Restaurant Southampton
Color Me Tan Phoebus	Martin Seafood Kecoughtan Road	Vanesse Seafood Grandview
County Grill and Smokehouse E. Mercury Blvd	Mary Helen's Restaurant Lincoln Street	Wilkes Bar-B-Que Victoria Blvd
DeLargy's Bistro Todd's Lane	Mercury Animal Hospital W. Mercury Blvd	Woods Orchard E. Mercury Blvd
Dentist - David L. Miller Charlton Drive, Riverdale	Napoli Pizzeria North King Street	

Appendix C:

Presented: The Petition in its entirety

THE PETITION

Petition Text

Petition to Hampton City Council from the Citizen's of the City of Hampton

Keep The Green Space Green - Buckroe Beach Redevelopment

We the undersigned petition the Hampton City Council to hear and heed the following requests from Hampton's citizens:

1. We request that all of the green space at Buckroe Beach that comprised the site of the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park and parking lot and the adjacent lot that is located between Pembroke Avenue, Second Street, Buckroe Avenue and First Street, all of which is now owned by the City of Hampton, therefore by the citizens of the city, be kept as green space for the now and future generations of the citizens of the City of Hampton. We further request that this land be designated as a city park to be named, at a later date, by the citizens of the city and be given over to the Department of Parks and Recreation for design, landscaping and development in partnership with a citizen's volunteer advisory committee.
2. We request that the funds be allocated from the general funds of the city to provide for the design, landscaping and development of this park and that the funds be drawn from the city at the same time, and in the same manner, that the funds are drawn to pay for the rebuilding of the Buckroe Beach Fishing Pier.
3. We request that this green space, as defined above, be designated as land that is never to be built upon for the establishment of home dwellings of any type or industrial endeavors of any kind. We request that this land be specifically retained for the common use of the entirety of the citizen's of the city of Hampton. That it be used as was intended by the original owner and builder of the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park - for the joyful pursuit of fun and relaxation by everyone, no matter their status or income.

End Petition Text

Thanks and appreciation to
E. Phyllis Flanders, Author
January 2005