

**Chantilly Battlefield Association
Fairfax, Virginia**

Sept. 2, 2003

Ms. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Pkwy., Suite 530
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Re: Ox Hill Battlefield Park Funding

Dear Ms. Hanley:

Thank you for forwarding to us a copy of the memorandum from Michael A. Kane, Director of the Fairfax County Park Authority relative to the start of planning for the Ox Hill Battlefield Park. It's nice to know that planning will begin soon. However, our critical question about why Ox Hill's funds are not earning interest for the park went unanswered.

In a recent telephone call to Michael Frey's office we were told that the bond funds, while approved and allocated for specific parks, are not drawn by the Park Authority until needed. Thus, the Ox Hill bond money is not yet in the possession of the County and therefore is not earning interest. If this is the standard procedure for Park bonds and this applies to Ox Hill, then we understand the situation. However, if there is going to be a six or seven year delay between estimating the amount of money a park will need and the actual commencement of work or construction, then shouldn't the staff calculate the added cost for the years of delay and provide for that?

Also, only \$50K of Ox Hill's funding is coming from bonds. \$118K is proffer money from the Centennial Development Corp. and has been on deposit with the County for a dozen years or more (we don't know the exact date that the County was in receipt of the proffer). So, again, unanswered is the question of why interest earned by a park's proffer money is going into the County's General Fund and not being held for the benefit of the park to offset rising costs due to delay.

Please look into this question and let us know what can be done to correct the situation so that the Ox Hill Battlefield Park is not victimized by accounting and banking procedures that rob it of funding that the park will undoubtedly need.

Very truly yours,

Edward T. Wenzel
Officer, Chantilly Battlefield Assn.
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