

Park Set For Land Near CIA

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A 230-acre tract of woodland next to Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Fairfax County has been designated as a park site by the General Services Administration.

The site, which is part of 362 acres adjacent to the north side of the CIA center on Turkey Run, will be developed by the National Park Service for camping, hiking, and picnicking, according to park service officials.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution in June requesting that the entire 362 acres that were listed as "excess" by the Department of Transportation be transferred to the Interior Department for use as parkland.

Both the CIA and the Department of Interior filed requests for use of the property, which stretches along the Potomac River Palisades. Designation of the property as parkland means the CIA will lose a woodland border that has screened the agency headquarters from public view since it opened in the late 1950s.

Dranesville Supervisor Harriet F. Bradley, who introduced the resolution, said she was prompted to do so by a rumor that the CIA "had plans" for use of the property. She interpreted that as an intention by the agency to expand its facilities on the site.

A GSA letter announcing the transferral to the National Park Service indicated that the CIA and the Federal Highway Administration will also receive parcels of the land.

"We have now completed an evaluation of the needs of the CIA and have determined that approximately 115 acres will be transferred to that agency," the letter stated.

It continued: "The balance

of the excess land, consisting of approximately 215 acres will be transferred to the National Park Service." GSA also designated 32 acres of the land to be used by the Federal Highway Administration.

GSA subsequently added 15 acres more to the National Park Service share. The land is about one mile west of the 336-acre Burling Tract, which was recently purchased for park purposes.

See PARK, C3, Col. 1

Park Slated On Site Near CIA Building

PARK, From C1

Leroy Rowell, assistant director of National Capitol Parks, which will have regional jurisdiction over the site, said several baseball fields normally used only by CIA employees will be included in the land transfer.

Mrs. Bradley said she viewed the GSA decision as a victory for the McLean Citizens Association, which she said has been trying to get the Department of Interior to request use of the land since 1955.

"I am pleased that our long-term efforts have paid off," Mrs. Bradley said yesterday. "We get along fine with the CIA, but we were determined not to have another government agency locate in that area."

In spite of the letter announcing the transfer, a GSA spokesman said yesterday the land transferral is still "under discussion" and will not be final until the plan is submitted to the U.S. Office of Management and Budget for approval.