



Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center

Charlottesville, Virginia

Spring 2010

LCEC Serving the Community with New Afterschool Program

Through a significant grant from the Prana Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center has been able to develop and offer a series of workshops called “Art and Nature” that teach environmental awareness and arts skills to elementary school students.

We are currently leading those workshops in the City of Charlottesville and County of Albemarle public schools as part of their afterschool program. Five workshop leaders have served eight locations during the 2009-2010 school year. The mentors write summaries of the strengths and challenges of each workshop to help develop the program and provide support for future workshop leaders.

Rachel Singel, an Aunspaugh Fellow in Studio Art at the University of Virginia, leads workshops at Stony Point Elementary, which she also attended in her childhood. (She’s delighted to be back at her Elementary Alma Mater.) Her March 2 drawing workshop focused on ornithology, using books, audible children’s toys, and CDs of bird songs. She writes, “We started out looking at all the books and talking about the different species of birds we have seen around our houses. Almost everyone had seen a cardinal before! I handed out the



toy birds and we passed them from table to table, hearing their different calls individually. During this time, I passed out pencils and paper and we did some sketches of birds we have seen, using the images in the books as guides. As the students worked, I played the CDs of bird calls on the classroom computer. When we reached the track with owl calls, everyone thought we were listening to monkeys! They were amazed that birds could make such loud noises!

Getting outside is a vital part of the Lewis & Clark “Art and Nature” program. Rachel continues, “We stayed inside until it stopped raining, and then ventured out for a walk. We looked for signs of birds, from nests to feathers. On our walk the students discovered multiple

nests up high in the trees and a post that a woodpecker had tunneled into. Marika was thrilled when she found a single white feather! We also saw bunches of chickadees and two big vultures. On the way back, we were extra quiet so we could hear the small birds rustling in the leaves and chirping to one another.”

Other projects have included leaf sculptures and prints, animal paintings, mapmaking, clay relief landscapes to teach about the watershed, and journal entries such as Lewis and Clark made on the Expedition.



The “Art and Nature” workshops will continue next fall with a new group of locations. The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center offers the workshops to the public schools at no cost. An exhibition about the program will take place this coming summer at the Charlottesville Transit Center and will feature the children’s work.



Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center

Charlottesville, Virginia

Spring 2010

SITE PLAN APPROVED

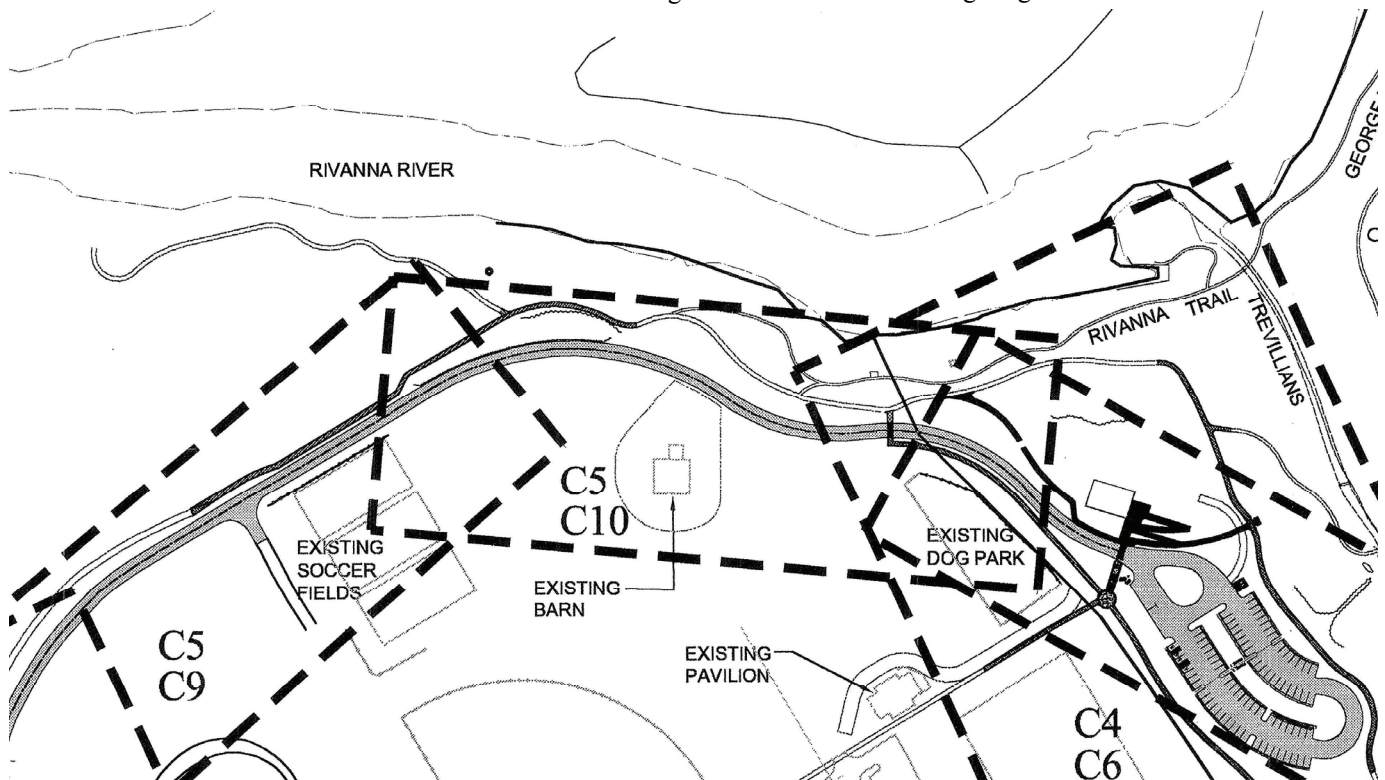
On January 15, 2010 Albemarle County granted final approval to the Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center Site Plan, allowing us to move forward towards building our permanent facility overlooking the Rivanna River. It was a four-year process that honored best environmental policies and was shepherded through by Dominion Development Resources, an engineering and design firm based in Charlottesville. All aspects of the project, including access, grading, soil removal, and watershed protection, were examined closely with different approaches weighed and consensus reached.

The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center will give the community a home from which to enjoy the beauty of the meandering Rivanna River, to set out across fields and woods rich in history, to enjoy rotating exhibitions, and to participate in hands-on activities relating to boatbuilding, science and the arts.

We would like to thank the many grantors who made the engineering of the site plan possible, including the Bama Works Fund of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, the National Parks Service, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Without their

generous support we could not have gotten to the finish line of the site plan, which now marks the beginning of our further journey.

With a million dollars raised, and 250,000 to go, we are close to our goal of breaking ground. We ask for your help in closing the gap and in providing the Charlottesville-Albemarle area with an extraordinary place that will launch explorations and learning. The Lewis & Clark Exploratory Center is a 501 (c) (3) and all contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law. Please contact us to learn about ways of giving.



LEWIS & CLARK EXPLORATORY CENTER, P.O. Box 281, Charlottesville, Virginia 22902, 434-979-2425
lewisandclark@lewisandclarkeast.org, www.lewisandclarkeast.org/Anne Hemenway, President/Alexandria Searls, ED
Open at Darden Towe Park May through October, Saturday 10-4, Sunday 12-4, and by appointment