

## **SALONA PARK ACTIVE RECREATIONAL USES**

### ***COMMUNITY NEEDS FOR ACTIVE RECREATION***

- Over 5,200 McLean Youth Athletics (MYA) youth participate in organized rectangular field sports
- McLean population grew 26% from 2000 to 2010 adding 10,000 new residents, Over 3,300 are under 19 years. \*
- McLean area has experienced permanent loss of 5 fields in last 3 years and 3 additional fields are anticipated to be lost in the next year with limited opportunity for additional new fields.
- No additional fields have been created in McLean within the last 10 years
- Over 2,500 families signed a petition showing their support for athletic fields at Salona.
- Lit fields increase scheduled playing time, McLean has two; synthetic fields improve availability and eliminate recovery time, McLean has six.
- 2011 FCPA Great Parks Great Communities estimated a 3.9 field deficit in 2020 but this analysis does not include the loss of 8 additional fields
- Senior citizens presently make up 17% of total population in McLean increasing over 31% since 2000 \*
- Limited active senior citizen facilities in McLean and limited opportunity for expansion of those facilities

*\*2010 US Census Bureau for Mclean CPD*

***PERMITTED RECREATION USES*** - The Open Space and Conservation Easement for Salona identifies specific permitted and non-permitted active recreation uses on up to 10 of the 41 acres. As described in section 3.9 of the Easement the permitted and non-permitted uses are:

- Permitted Recreational Uses within the 10 Acres
  - Two rectangular natural grass athletic fields (maximum size 230' x 360' and 265' x 420'). The fields can have an irrigation system, structure to house irrigation system controls and typical athletic apparatus (benches, goals, etc.)
  - Playground- size restrictions are not described in the easement
  - Picnic area with a shelter- size is not described in the easement
  - Paved or non-impervious surfaced parking for maximum of 100 cars.
- Non-Permitted Uses
  - No artificial turf
  - No lighting of any kind
  - No commercial activity
  - No camping, fires or night time activities

### ***FAIRFAX COUNTY DRAFT MASTER PLAN - July 2010 (See Exhibit on Board)***

- Core active recreation area of approximately 5 acres, less than the 10 acres permitted
- Two non-lit irrigated grass rectangular fields (180' x 360 and 210' x 360) – smaller than originally planned
- 100 space parking lot
- Playground and picnic area
- Dog Park

## ***ISSUES AND CONCERNS***

- Ingress and egress off of Dolley Madison Blvd
- Traffic generated by uses and adequate parking
- Impact of improvements on natural resources (meadows, streams, wetlands, hedgerows)
- Drainage and storm water run-off resulting from improvements in park
- Preserving historical significance of the property

## ***COMMUNITY INPUT AND VISIONS***

- McLean Youth Athletics organizations presentation to Task Force-  
Vision- “To develop a plan for Salona Park that provides multiple uses, active and passive, to serve the needs of the community at large while preserving the natural and historical aspects of the property.”

Suggested modifications to the original FCPA July 2010 Master Plan:

- Design, engineer and construct fields to minimize impact on natural features such as perennial streams, wetlands and hedgerows which may reconfigure field sizes from the maximum permitted in the Easement Agreement and Master Plan
  - Possible parking lot relocation to minimize neighborhood traffic impact
  - No spectator bleachers or players’ benches
  - No permanent goals or other structures
  - Increase meadow preservation area
  - Trails around fields for use by others in the community
  - A sustainable agricultural and educational center
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- McLean senior community presentation-  
Vision- “To develop a plan for Salona Park that provides uses for senior citizens to enhance social interaction”
  - Park benches in place for outdoor relaxation
  - Open space for outdoor exercise
  - Trails that incorporate exercise stations
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- Skate Park  
Vision- “To incorporate a skate park in Mclean”
  - Community input received after July 2010 FCPA master plan presentation
  - FCPA 2004 Needs Assessment shows this to be the least met need of all recreational facilities in the county, Mclean district has no skate parks
  - Easement does not allow for a skate park at Salona

*“The Board of Supervisors must be commended for taking such strong action in furtherance of the goal set out in the Board’s Environmental Vision to ‘acquire open space before it is too late through direct purchase or conservation easements to create more trails, connect trails and provide passive and active recreation areas’.” – Whit Field, Vice President and General Counsel of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust Whit Field, NVCT press release December 28, 2005. The full text of the press release is available.*