

Merrilee Park Park Master Plan

Additional Outreach Meeting, May 18, 2011
Merrifield at Dunn Loring Station Apartments

Meeting Summary

An Outreach Meeting was held on the evening of May 18, 2011 for the purpose of meeting with residents of Merrifield at Dunn Loring Station Apartments to increase public awareness of the project and the park master planning process as well as to invite public comment and input toward the park's future design.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

In attendance:

Ken Quincy	Park Authority Board, Providence District
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Gayle Hooper	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD

Staff Presentation

Project Overview, Site Conditions, and Background

Gayle Hooper, Project Manager for the Merrilee Park Master Plan, provided an outline of the evening's agenda as well as an overview of Fairfax County Park Authority and the Park Master Plan process. A brief history of the property, some local context and description of the site were presented to round out an understanding of the site.

Public Comments:

After the staff presentation, a period of open discussion was provided to allow those in attendance to share their thoughts and suggestions for Merrilee Park. A summary of the suggestions and concerns is provided below.

GENERAL COMMENTS

- o Several people expressed concern about providing safe access to the site with suggestions for fences, to prevent children from running out into the street, as well as traffic-calming devices for Hartland Road.
- o Some concern was expressed regarding monitoring of any suspicious activity within the park. Park design should consider visibility for parents as well as line-of-sight for police driving past the park.
- o Park should be designed to serve both nearby residents and workers from businesses.
- o Noise from the Interstate could be a concern. There was a suggestion to plant trees along the sound wall to further absorb Interstate noise.

- o Consider using sponsorships and volunteers in construction and maintaining park (example given re: park developed in Norfolk with Kaboom)
- o Question was asked if there were any comparable parks in the area. Borge Street Park in Oakton was cited as similar in size and context.
- o It was noted that Merrifield at Dunn Loring Station apartments contains a wide age mix throughout the community. Design should consider factors of all age groups.

FUTURE PARK USES / FEATURES

- o Playground may not be needed since the apartment complex has a number of them. If there a playground is considered, it should offer something unique from the existing local playgrounds.
- o There should be something for "tweeners".
- o There should be benches for park visitors.
- o The apartment complex basketball courts often fill up so another court at the park would be welcome.
- o Merrifield at Dunn Loring Apartments has a small dog-run area (approximately 20' by 10') but that this does not adequately address the needs of the area's dog owners.