

Merrilee Park Park Master Plan

Public Comment Meeting, October 25, 2011
Luther Jackson Middle School

Meeting Summary

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of October 25, 2011 for the purpose presenting the draft master plan for Merrilee Park to the community and inviting public comment toward the park's future design.

Public comment on the draft master plan for Merrilee Park will continue to be received by the Park Authority through November 25, 2011.

Introductions and Opening Remarks

In attendance:

Linda Smyth	Supervisor, Providence District
Ken Quincy	Park Authority Board, Providence District
Tony Vellucci	Park Authority Board, Braddock District

Park Authority Staff

John Dargle	Director, Park Authority
Sara Baldwin	Deputy Director, Park Authority
Dave Bowden	Director, Planning and Development Division (PDD)
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Gayle Hooper	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Judy Pedersen	Public Information Officer

Staff Present

Introduction

Judy Pedersen provided an outline of the evening's agenda as well as introduction of the County and Park Authority representatives in attendance.

Site Conditions and Background

Gayle Hooper, Project Manager for the Merrilee Park Master Plan, provided a brief history of the property, some local context and description of the site as well as presentation of the draft master plan. Each plan element was presented with explanation of why it is recommended for inclusion in the plan.

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.

- o The question was raised whether this is to be one of a series of parks. Although there are other county parks in the area, Merrilee Park is not contiguous to other Park Authority land. With future redevelopment in the area, there may be opportunities to link publicly and privately owned open space areas.
- o Question was raised whether a dog park was planned. An off-leash dog park is not being considered at this site due to space limitations. The Park Authority has a series of requirements necessary for the establishment of a dog park that cannot be satisfied at the Merrilee Park site.
- o A suggestion was offered that the park be renamed to Yorktown Park, reflective of the nearby shopping area.
- o Support was expressed for the inclusion of play features for toddlers. In particular, the inclusion of poured-in-place surfacing, similar to that used at Clemyjontri Park, would be very favorable.
- o Question was raised if any additional lighting is planned for the park. As standard park hours are from dawn until dusk, no additional site lighting is proposed.