

Comments Received at Monticello Park Draft Master Plan Public Comment Meeting on February 27, 2012

Sponsor group has been involved for nearly three years to get a dog park in Braddock District. Supports the entire MP, not just dog park. Monticello was best suitable after study; provides alternate location to lake parks, neighborhood areas, and South Run dog park; provides great access and will improve drainage by design; non-scientific poll said 85% supported the park.

MP is flawed in two ways: (1) lack of any demand data that shows that what's proposed is what citizens want, and (2) lack of any cost data to allow citizens to assess if what's proposed is worth the price and how it will be funded. The MP will divide a great open space into separate uses, do the citizens even want this? Suggests conducting a study. Braddock Dogs is funding the dog park, but the MP doesn't outline how anything else will be funded (skate park, etc.) and citizens have the right to know.

Rebuffs Dave comment that Park Authority has not surveyed the community and furthermore says the entire process, not just the dog park, has been open and transparent - emails, mailings, working group meetings, revisions, etc.

MP lacks critical thinking. Parking is not adequate for the dog park (30). MP only talks about the positives and doesn't mention any negatives and how to mitigate them (drainage). Would like to see parking and dog park analysis and wants an independent group to review for accuracy; claims that other parks are just as adequate, if not more, for a dog park; analysis scope was Kingstowne area and not the entire district. Called VDOT and questioned parking, which said it was inadequate and needed to be reworked. Doesn't provide good traffic flow since south bound users will have to make a U-Turn which could be dangerous.

Seconds Mahoney comments. Preface, I am a dog owner and have used dog parks; doesn't believe the location is right and that 30 spaces is enough; worried that users will park on her street and that south bound users will have to make a U-Turn which could be dangerous - which was not considered. Doesn't believe it's right to call Monticello a 6-acre park when only 3.88 are useable, which was a criteria in the dog park analysis; whereas 4 acre parks were too small for a dog park. Rebuffs other comments that community outreach was sought because she was never contacted (nor her neighbors) during the process even though she lives on Bronte next to the park.

Has talked with planning staff about the drainage issues throughout the process as a neighbor. What's the sequence of development in regards to the dog park? Does the dog park come in first then all the other improvement come after bond (fixing drainage problems going into the backyards of adjacent neighbors, sidewalk so people don't cut through backyards, planting vegetation buffer, etc.)? Everything at once? Why does Monticello need a playground? There are plenty of nearby options which are sufficient. Asks Andy, President of Kings Park Civic Association, if he was on the Braddock Dog committee when it started? Answer: No. Doesn't believe his vote should count because he doesn't represent Lake Braddock citizens.

There is no buffer between dog park/skate park and her subdivision; the trail will have people right in her backyard; vegetation buffer will not be tall enough to hide dog park and skate park. Doesn't believe the Park Authority has considered the privacy of the homeowners and no one surveyed the area sufficiently.

Drainage is really bad from the park; nearly comes up to his house during major rain events. Doesn't believe the water can be managed well enough unless drastic improvements are made or routed to Guinea Road. Concerned about the liability and maintenance of the dog park and area in 50-100 years, suggests that Braddock Dogs get a bond to ensure long-term financial stability because he's not convinced the County will continue to maintain it once its built nor that Braddock Dogs will remain intact in the future to provide funding and maintenance; MP does not speak about this.

Would like to see the playground have shade or similar function to protect kids from the sun. Believes dog park will be an asset to dog owners and homeowners, but not skate park. Wants to clarify (or public service announcement?) that the park is intended to serve the neighborhoods around the park within 2 miles, so while it's important listen to the those directly adjacent, the MP should reflect the wider community. Suggests taking out the skate park and leaving it open space.

<p>The proposed park uses will draw a bunch of people from the surrounding area, but the MP doesn't sufficiently provide pedestrian access. The Park Authority needs to address this issue throughout the planning process in collaboration with other County agencies so not to exacerbate parking problems, which has already been identified as another issue.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park; references Alexandria dog parks that don't have fences, which are in harmony with the residents.</p>
<p>Reiterates the drainage problem and anticipated parking problem. Worried that people will cross through her yard to access the park, suggests posting "do not park/resident only parking" signs on the street; worried about dog park maintenance and frequency.</p>
<p>Clarified that the dog park committee looked at various parks through the Braddock District, not just Kingstowne area. Hopes that the parking and drainage issues will be addressed. Mentions that she saw a real estate advertising proximity of the proposed dog park, which is an indicator that it will increase property values to a degree.</p>
<p>If Monticello is a local park and will remain a local park, how will the MP change the maintenance of the park? Says that the grass is rarely cut, so she wonders how the maintenance of the park will change with all the proposed uses. Worried about traffic impacts and safety issues as the ingress egress of the park is on a main road, which already has problems.</p>
<p>Believes a lot of dog park users will walk so the parking won't be a huge problem; if the speed limit is enforced then traffic problems and safety issues won't be a problem either.</p>
<p>Recommends improving pedestrian access, particularly across Braddock Road at Twinbrook.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park. The MP will help drainage compared to being left alone; like the idea of the sidewalk.</p>
<p>Wants more information about financing of the dog park from Braddock Dogs, maintenance of the park and dog park, and "what if" if Braddock Dogs doesn't uphold its responsibilities. She wants answers, particularly from Braddock Dogs, but Judy says this is a time for questions not answers, and steers back to speakers.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park; thinks most users will walk but recommends more parking spaces because multi-uses; recommends decreasing the multi-use field size since it's close to the road and could have limited uses, so maybe using that extra space for parking. Reiterates that the drainage problems will be improved over existing conditions with the MP.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park and Park Authority parks; would be shocked if the Park Authority would do something bad, so she has faith in the process.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park and could find himself walking to it. Doesn't understand however what could be used in the multi-use field since the proximity to Guinea Road and steep slope.</p>
<p>PSA... this would be a Park Authority park, not a Kingstowne park. Thinks the dog park would be a great asset to the community, especially those in townhouses and condos who don't have backyards like those adjacent to the park.</p>
<p>Young kid; supports the dog park because he doesn't have many other options.</p>
<p>Supports the dog park and believes 30 parking spaces is enough; although understands the concerns of the surrounding community. Supports the mentioned idea of adding shade to the playground. Hopes the drainage will be addressed (according to Chesapeake Bay regulations); recommends adding a fence along the trail to add privacy/protection of adjacent neighbors; and adding a sidewalk to Burke Road for pedestrian access.</p>
<p>Has observed police helicopters landing on Monticello and wonders if that's going to be addressed in the MP.</p>