

# Willow Springs Park Master Plan

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING

July 14, 2015, 7:00 P.M. At Willow Springs Elementary School

## Meeting Summary:

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of July 14, 2015 to kick off the public master plan process for Willow Springs Park Master Plan. Public comments on the draft conceptual development plan were provided by the approximately 36 attendees signed in at the meeting.

The meeting began with introductions by Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority

Opening remarks were provided by Mike Thompson, Park Authority Board Member, Springfield District Representative and Pat Herrity, Springfield District Supervisor

## Other Officials and Staff in Attendance:

Kirk Kincannon, Director, Fairfax County Park Authority

Sara Baldwin, Chief Operations Officer, Fairfax County Park Authority

Sandy Stallman, Manager Park Planning Branch, Fairfax County Park Authority

Andy Galusha, Landscape Architect/Planner and Project Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority

Kristen Sinclair, Natural Resource Specialist, Fairfax County Park Authority

Chris Sperling, Senior Archaeologist, Fairfax County Park Authority

Dave Bowden, Director of Park Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority

Monika Szczepaniec, Project Management Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority

Peter Murphy, Springfield District Planning Commissioner

## Staff Presentation

Judy Pedersen provided a brief overview of the Park Authority.

Andy Galusha, project manager for the Park Master Plan, provided a brief history of the site, site conditions, and surrounding context, master plan process, timeline, and described the draft plan.

## Discussion Session:

Following the presentation, Judy Pederson moderated an open public comment period so those in attendance provide input on the draft plan. The following is a summary of each speaker's comments expressed during this session, after which, the meeting adjourned.

---

## Speaker Number

## Group/Organization:

01

NVTBS

From a baseball perspective, some of us have been working on this for over 10 years to build a multifield complex, especially as it relates to 90ft fields. The southern part of Fairfax County only has one ninety foot field in it and that is South Run Park. Having a complex that has 3 ninety foot fields really helps us. Biggest part we are excited about is the addition of two new 90' fields with lights and other amenities will help us do things we have not been able to do in the past. Looking forward to working with the Park Authority on design and implementation of this project and also working with the residents and Willow Springs Elementary to be great partners.

02

SYA

whole organization completely supports this project. It's a needed entity, lit fields, especially 90 foot really needed. SYA has been partner on multiple projects. We adopt fields and parks involved in spending money so county doesn't have to. We want to be good partners. FCPA premiere organization that works hard to take care of issues never had negative issues after a project is complete.

**Speaker Number****Group/Organization:****03****SYA BASEBALL**

LLV is one of the main facilities that we use. SYA volunteers built the fields that are their now with grant money from county and some county help. Estimate that we have put in hundreds of thousands of dollars and hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours fully support expansion and development of park. 100% behind this. We want to retain old school charm of the park and natural settings, benches & playgrounds etc. SYA one of most respected leagues in NOVA. We want full community partnerships. Turf & lights are critical. We have a snack shack already would like one near both sets of fields safety is important bull pens, batting cages, infrastructure (water, electricity, etc.) which brings people from outside in and creates revenue for local businesses. We hope to continue partnership with the Park Authority.

**04****Neighbor**

Live in neighborhood on Ashleigh Road and current chair of the facility and staff advisory of the school and an employee for the last three years. I'm also a past PTA president. Request that the Park Authority work closely with the school on where the parking and access will be for these fields. We ask for more direct access to the parking for the school community. Currently very limited parking at the school presently. Buses are currently delayed by traffic and parking for the fields. Pushed for light at Braddock Road which is a great help. Please consider the school needs when planning.

**05****HAMPTON CHASE**

Would like to echo the need for partnership with schools. The walking path is one lead in and one lead out, people park in the neighborhood and walk to park.

**06****HAMPTON CHASE**

Live on Ashleigh Road. Want to make sure there is a septic system and not tying into public sewer system. Concerned about the traffic, if 66 backs up, Braddock Road also backs up. The light was put in for the school not for 24 hour use, now is being rationalized for the ballfields.

**07****BASEBALL COUNCIL**

One of biggest scheduling crunches we have is in the month of May because there are not enough fields. Lit fields is huge help. There seems to be concern about noise and adults making noise at 11pm, I've never had anyone cheering for me at 11pm.

**08****Neighbor**

Quick picture of environment, its all five acre lots, semi rural. Mental health group home in community. A dozen properties have been able to stay that way for years. Baseball fields have been good neighbors. If you maintain trees at top then things are "I think we are probably ok". I just want to preserve the environment as much as I can. Especially the area to the North.

**09****Neighbor**

1. Majority of land acquired through transfer from schools. Willow Springs is over crowded - fear that we are building on land we need for the school expansion and then don't have what we need. Need to think about it now and not later.
2. Not sure how it is funded. All tax dollars? Really like to know what other high priority projects are not getting funded if we do this.

**10****CYA**

This is an excellent opportunity. Project that is great. Support. Will partner.

**Speaker Number****Group/Organization:****11****Hampton Chase Neighbor**

Plays baseball with SYA. How many proposed parking spots are there? I count about 200+. Parents use the parking lot for overflow. Would like to see a path from the parking to the fields, not a path from the field to the school, with fencing that prevents people from going into the woods. I think you should consider repositioning two 60 foot fields. Foul balls are a real problem in other fields we need something closer to 60 foot for those kids. Snack shop should be closer to field - also need additional bathrooms.

**12****LL DISTRICT 10**

Diamond fields have been sore subject since 1990. Those two fields positioned like that are not safe, need at least 75 feet between the two fences to prevent balls going from one field to the other. I need this to do tournaments in FFX County can't support enough. Got to make sure we have this. I would turn that parking sideways and make a road from the end of the parking to the school. Parents come in using that parking lot, buses with have a straight routh, the parking lot will be where the traffic will back up.

**13****GVBRL**

We made transition in Vienna field is right in the middle of town. Here's the biggest thing: FFX County needs a complex like this. Baseball has a vested interest in making sure we work with school, neighbors, etc. Last thing: at Waters and Nottoway Park we were asked to host Babe Ruth World Series but need complex. Only one 90 ft diamond that is synthetic with one planned for near future. Some discussion about this being an artificial field. That is a big discussion coming into play.

**14****HAMPTON FOREST**

My biggest issue is sewer system. Parking if there is a big tournament situation will not be sufficient. Lights all being used at the same time & will impact community. Noise - County requires that the local pool be closed at 9pm - noise can't happen after 6pm as far as I know. This is going to be a bond project - estimate is \$11 million - if going to be bond issue then we need to make a decision about whether we really need this. We can use money for education, school kids are using trailers and that is not acceptable. Go back to old plan - just build fields and use existing roads.

**Comment Card****Neighbor**

Ten years ago we began talking about Patriot Park, drug our heels, and have lost our original concept. If we drag our heels again we will lose this one too. Let's get this one done. And consider Willow Springs Elem School's access & parking concerns.

**Comment Card****Neighbor**

I fully support this project. I have lived in the area since 1986. Both of my children attended Willow Springs Elementary. I have been involved in youth sports since 1993 and feel that this complex is needed both for this community and the county as a whole.