

PUBLIC COMMENT RECORD

The public master planning process for Ruckstuhl Park began with a public information meeting held on Wednesday, July 30, 2014, at Lemon Road Elementary School. Staff also conducted a planning workshop with community association representatives at Marshall High School on March 31, 2015. Public comments were very similar at both meetings. The comments received focused on traffic, concerns over the lack of crosswalks and complete sidewalks to access the park, trail connectivity, and preservation of natural resources including wildlife. Use preferences included trails, nature viewing and protection areas, picnic areas, as well as unscheduled casual open use areas. They also expressed a clear desire for interpretation of site history and natural features.

To further engage community members, the draft master plan was published to the project website. The community was invited to an Open House at the park on July 28, 2015 and to a Public Comment Meeting at Marshall High School on July 29, 2015 followed by a 30-day public comment period.

Many neighbors visited the park during the open house and about 16 community members attended the meeting with four providing oral public comment. Few comments were received on the draft plan, with the community being supportive of the draft park plan. Most members of the community expressed concern for safe site access with cross walks and complete sidewalks. Other comments highlighted preservation and respect for the adjacent Lindsay Family Cemetery. Staff made commitments to work with transportation officials at the time of park development to address park access safety. This commitment is noted in the design concern section of the master plan (Attachment 2).

- * The Shrevecrest HOA attended the July 30, 2014 Ruckstuhl Park Public Information Meeting and would like to provide the following comments. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the Park development and we look forward to future planning events.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC IMPROVEMENTS

One major concern is that without significant improvement to pedestrian corridors the new park will be creating a safety hazard. The lack of continuous sidewalk(s) on Idylwood Road, no alternate walking paths except for Idylwood Rd., no nearby Idylwood traffic lights and the high volume of Idylwood Rd. traffic create a situation where the Park cannot be safely accessed from homes west of the Park. In addition, a continuous Idylwood Road sidewalk would provide additional access to Marshall High School, shopping centers located nearby on RT 7 and the Falls Church West Metro station.

Specific recommendations:

- Establish continuous sidewalks on Idylwood Rd.
- Install a pedestrian activated stop light near Idylwood Rd. and Idyl Lane
- Create a bicycle/pedestrian corridor connecting Ruckstuhl Park to Idylwood Park/W&OD Trail (see figure 1). This would provide access to the playground and ballfields of Idylwood Park for homes west of Ruckstuhl Park and provide access to Ruckstuhl Park for homes east of Ruckstuhl Park.

RUCKSTUHL PARK DEVELOPMENT

The following recommendations are based on our experience as an Idylwood Park neighbor as well as a manager of several acres of forested community land. The Shrevecrest HOA requests that the Ruckstuhl Master Plan honor Lily Ruckstuhl's goal of preventing the bucolic property from additional development.

Specific recommendations:

- Limit the number of parking spaces and improve pedestrian access options.
- Preserve as much green space as possible by NOT establishing playgrounds, dog parks, etc.
- Provide dedicated nature areas and a low impact path to permit visitor's to walk the grounds.
- Consider a Butterfly garden¹.

RUCKSTUHL PARK AS ANIMAL SANCTUARY

There was much discussion at the July 30 meeting whether the tradition of animals living in Ruckstuhl Park should be continued. The Shrevecrest HOA supports maintaining animal habitats and would like to provide our experience living next to several acres of forested land. Our community area supports a migratory population of deer, raccoons, bats, birds (owls, etc) rabbits and foxes. In general, we get along fine with our animal friends but there is an additional burden that our gardens (and garbage cans) are often exploited as food sources. Our concern is that Ruckstuhl Park may not have sufficient connectivity to permit animal survival and may become a 'sink' habitat or ecological trap. In the case of our small neighborhood animal sanctuary, the animals are connected to the W&OD trail and Idylwood Park which provides the four elements needed for wildlife survival; food, water, shelter, and nesting areas'. In the case of Ruckstuhl Park, the connection path to a larger supporting habitat would most likely be along Rt. 66. There is concern that continued development along Rt. 66 will further fragment animal connections and create an isolated unsupportable habitat.

Specific recommendations:

- If wildlife populations are to be encouraged in Ruckstuhl Park, protective provisions such as connectivity with adjacent habitats, water sources, population monitoring and local neighborhood garden and pet policies should be established.
- Establish a bird sanctuary as part of the Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan. (A bird sanctuary, of course, is not limited by ground connectivity requirements.) The Shrevecrest HOA would be willing to manage our forested area in concert with a Ruckstuhl Park bird sanctuary to increase available acreage and environmental options, <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/habitat/butterfly-garden.asp>

Reference provides a good summary of many of the issues involved in establishing suburban habitats: Preserving Suburban Wildlife Habitats through Collaboration. (2011) Graduate Candidate Julie Bolthouse, Virginia Tech University Capstone Project, [https://scholar.vt.edu/access/content/group/5b95dc6f-a3ef-4ce5-8ela-875819148663/MNR%20Capstone%20Projects/Final%20Paper_PreservingSuburbanWildlifeHabitats_Julie%20Still .pdf](https://scholar.vt.edu/access/content/group/5b95dc6f-a3ef-4ce5-8ela-875819148663/MNR%20Capstone%20Projects/Final%20Paper_PreservingSuburbanWildlifeHabitats_Julie%20Still.pdf). National Wildlife Federation. (2011). Garden for Wildlife. National Wildlife Federation: www.nwf.org/Get-Outside/Outdoor-Activities/Garden-for-Wildlife/Create-a-Habitat.aspx
Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments. We appreciate your work in improving our community. If you need any further information please call me at 70.3-560-8477

- * Thank you for this opportunity to submit a comment. We live in the Churchill Square townhouse community about two blocks away from the park.

We are excited about the park's development and would like to propose the following:

1. Area for dogs (off-leash, with benches, so owners can watch their dog) 2. Jogging trail around the park (this is important because there is a lack of sidewalks in the area -- also there should be cross walk to the park) 3. Community swimming pool (if there is a way this would fit into the easement) 4. Children's playground

- * We are some neighbors living near Idylwood Rd.
We heard some wonderful news. That a park, called the Ruckstuhl Park, is under construction at Idylwood Rd/Idylwood Ln.
We are very interested to get some information, because living near this place we would be so very happy to have a park there as soon as possible... The Idylwood Towers and surroundings are full of children, and, of course, of parents and grandparents eager to go so near their home in a wonderful park, preserving its natural beauty, full of trees, flowers, benches a.s.o.
Many thanks to the memory of Dr Lily Ruckstuhl.
Would it be possible to have this park next year or is it too soon yet? What can we do to help this dream come true?
Many-many thanks in advance,
Daniela S. (a grandma :-)) and her family and neighbors
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- * I'm a homeowner with young children who lives near the Ruckstuhl Park land under master plan development.

We had two thoughts for the County's consideration for this land:

1) It seems the previous homeowner's intent was to provide the public access to the beauty of the land--in that spirit, it would be nice if there would be an environmental/nature focus so that this can become a park through which people can learn about the local habitat and/or experience nature. Maybe that means retaining the trees and planting native plants or otherwise conditioning the property to provide a nature-focused (versus sports) experience for the public.

2) Since many of us in this area live in condos and townhomes, we lack land that can be simply enjoyed as a backyard--wide open space that is not covered in blacktop or concrete for a set purpose, but rather can be used for things like throwing and kicking balls without worry about the balls going over fences, playing tag without worrying about calling children out of the parking lot because of cars. To that end, if the park could be developed in a way that makes it a community 'backyard' that is accessible by walking, that would give us a bit of breathing space in a very dense and high traffic area.

Thanks for your consideration of public input.

* I was disappointed not to be able to make it to the meeting this week at Lemon Road school.

I would be most interested to hear what the discussion and presentation consisted of.

Meanwhile, had I been there I would have raised two points:

1. access to the park. I live to the west of the park, just off Idylwood Road, on Senseney Lane. As it currently stands there is no consistent sidewalk access from the west of Idylwood Road to the area of the park. In some areas of Idylwood Road there is no sidewalk on either side of the road and walking in the area is extremely dangerous as even crossing peoples' yards is sometimes impossible. There are curves in the road that limit visibility significantly. You are taking your life in your hands to take a walk. Getting to a park should be possible by foot as well as car, especially for the immediate vicinity's residents
2. There is no dog park in the area. The nearest is in East Falls Church, or Vienna. There are many many dog owners in the Idylwood area who I am sure would be thrilled to have a dog area/dog run be part of the plan for this park.

* I am a neighbor of the new Ruckstuhl Park and am writing to share a few concerns.

My family and I live at 2304 Colonel Lindsay Court and our property backs up to the cemetery. We were very pleased when the heirs donated the 7+ acres of land to the Conservation Trust and then to the Park Authority. As you note in your Master Plan, there is a scarcity of "open space" in developed areas of the County, so the bequest of open land, trees, and a meadow was a wonderful gift for generations to enjoy.

As you make decisions regarding preservation and development of the land into a park, here are my concerns:

1. Preservation and respect for the cemetery. Please erect a protection fence around the cemetery as soon as possible. As adjacent residents for more than 20 years, we have been disappointed to see the vandalism to the head stones and inappropriate activity which has occurred around a sacred, historic site.
2. Access. Please limit access to the park to Idylwood Road and Dunford Drive. There are concerns in our neighborhood that people visiting the park will park on Colonel Lindsay Court/Drive and walk through our back yards to access the park. This potential problem can be addressed with fencing around the park and the cemetery and provision of adequate parking for park users.
3. Traffic and parking. As noted above, adequate parking for park users is critical, and should be constructed on the park land itself. To encourage walking (and safety), a sidewalk should be constructed on the park frontage on Idylwood Road (also as soon as possible). Traffic is already heavy on Idylwood Road, and a school bus stop is located at the corner of Idylwood and Colonel Lindsay Court, so other traffic enhancements should be considered for the area around the park, such as a marked and signed sidewalk crossing from the park to the corner of Idylwood and Idyll, for the safety of all walkers.
4. Park facilities. I support a low-impact, passive park, which maintains the natural environment. I support the construction of a walking/hiking/nature trail, park benches and possibly an educational/nature area and toddler/small-scale playground in the new Ruckstuhl Park. I do not support community gardens, construction of ball fields, restrooms, picnic areas, large playground(s), and lights. As noted above, construction of a protection fence around the cemetery should be installed as soon as possible, along with a plaque, possibly explaining the history of the land as well as giving credit to the generous donors. I do not support picnic areas, community gardens and rest rooms, which might attract undesirable wildlife (rodents) and require much more (costly) upkeep and maintenance by the Park Authority.
5. Operating hours. The Ruckstuhl Park should be open only from dawn to dusk, not at night.
6. Maintenance and security. As referenced above, by not constructing picnic areas, community gardens and rest rooms, the amount of maintenance (including trash pickup) by Park Authority staff will be kept to a minimum. It is critical, however, that the new park receive regular visits from Park Authority maintenance crews and Park Authority security and/or County Police, to maintain the park's safety and security for all users.

Thank you for listening to and considering our input regarding the Master Plan for Ruckstuhl Park. If you have any questions regarding my comments, please feel free to contact me at zeinde88@gmail.com or 571-331-7791.

We are very pleased about the creation of Ruckstuhl Park, which will preserve undeveloped open space for the enjoyment of generations to come.

* To whom it may concern:

As I will be unable to attend this evening's hearing, I wish to send some comments re. the future of this property.

I presume this park is intended for pedestrians only to access it. As such, it has the potential to be a small, but albeit pleasant oasis for the community. For this to occur, the following is needed:

1. create a crosswalk across Idylwood Rd, to facilitate crossing the street from the sidewalk side to the park entrance. There is no sidewalk on the park side of the street.
2. there should be some walking paths or trails, and they need to be maintained. The current mowing that appears to occur about once per yr is inadequate.
3. downed trees, such as the large one that fell a year ago during the derecho storm, should be removed promptly, so that continued traversing of the property is possible. I emailed the park about this a few months ago. The tree is still there.
4. the existing vegetation could be enhanced with some naturalistic landscaping.

Under no circumstances, should any sports fields or facilities be placed here.

* Dr. Ruckstuhl kept many animals, such as horses and sheep, on her land. I could see them from my house, and the kids loved to visit them from this side of the fence. Dedicating a portion of her land to a dog park would be consistent with her obvious love for animals.

* The park should be designed to accommodate the hundreds of dog owners in the area; a fenced exercise and play area.

* Our Colonel Lindsay Homeowners Association has concerns regarding the planned public access to the park. We are worried that if the entrance were to be through Colonel Lindsay Ct and Colonel Lindsay Drive it would bring additional traffic, noise, litter and lack of security to our little neighborhood. The streets are narrow and not designed for through traffic. Many of the families have young children and pets. Our feeling is that access via our roads would be a danger to them. Also, there is no room for overflow parking on our streets.

Has the County estimated the number of potential visitors to the Park? Heavy use would overwhelm our small area. Therefore, we prefer that the entrance to the park be from Idylwood Road.

I would appreciate any information you may have regarding this issue, and how we can pass along our concerns.

Thank you for your kind attention in this matter,

* My name is Adam Schmidt, I live across the street from the proposed Ruckstuhl Park in the Idylwood Station Lane townhomes. My wife and I welcome the idea of a Fairfax County Park here – we're excited about it! Sorry we were unable to make this past week's meeting. Are there any electronic materials (slides, minutes or otherwise) from that meeting that you could share?

Our input to the project is simple – we support a green space that would welcome the vibrant community of families, pets, walkers, joggers, nature buffs, etc. that live nearby. Our only concern would be the installation of major sporting infrastructure (e.g. baseball, soccer, football, tennis courts, etc.) or other oversized attractions which may cause a traffic and parking issue in that already crowded, very narrow corridor of Idyl and Idylwood Roads. We also wouldn't want to see a disproportionate amount of the green 7.2 Acres used as a parking lot! The Dunn Loring Park on Gallows Road may be a reasonable example to follow.

I look forward to participating in the development of this park as much as an interested resident can, thanks for your time.

Thanks again for making this project a reality in the coming years.

* I just reviewed the materials from the July 30, 2014 public meeting about the planning process for Ruckstuhl Park. I am writing to give my comments and to request that I be on the mailing list (if there is one) for future developments at this site.

My son is a Freshman at George C. Marshall High School, and he and I ride our bikes to his school each morning eastbound on Idylwood Road. We turn left onto Idyl to continue to school.

I believe for this park to be a great asset to the community, you will need:

(1) sidepath or sidewalk along the south side of Idylwood

(2) preferably a traffic signal, but at a minimum, a crosswalk, at the intersection of Idylwood and Idyl.

I have observed traffic on Idylwood at all times of the day, and I think it is too voluminous and fast to allow safe crossing without a signal or crosswalk. There are many apartments and condos across Idylwood from the park site, and many potential park users. However, they would be effectively cut off from the park without a controlled crossing of Idylwood.

An added benefit of a sidepath on Idylwood and a signal or crosswalk at the intersection of Idylwood/Idyl would be that it would encourage more Marshall students, such as my son, to walk or bike to school. That intersection is the single most dangerous and difficult part of his commute.

* I met staff at the kickoff meeting for the Ruckstuhl Park project this past Wednesday and several community members/residents in the surrounding area had expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians accessing the new proposed park.

It sounds like the plan for Ruckstuhl Park is to limit the amount of paved and non-natural surfaces which is great and as such, there will be a greater demand for local community and residents to access the park via foot, rollerblade, bicycle or non-motorized means. Currently, pedestrian access to that area is limited and there have been recent improvements over the past few years with new sidewalks especially with that new bridge project over 495 on Idylwood Rd. That's a great start but I was hoping to see more sidewalks built with the repaving of Idylwood Rd. this past month but that doesn't seem to be in the works, at least not with the repaving project. If you look at Idylwood Rd. between the major intersections of Leesburg Pike on one end to Gallows Rd. on the other (between the 2 traffic lights on that ~2 mile segment), it is not very pedestrian/bicycle friendly at all, especially at the section towards Gallows Rd. Idylwood Rd. winds in and out with several gentle curves and turns in that area and there are at least 4 distinct sections where there are no sidewalks on either side of the road in that short stretch of road. This is a heavily traveled road as residents in Dunn Loring/Merrifield area and beyond use it to get to I-66 Eastbound (see attachment where I've outlined the potential area of residents). It is shocking to me that this heavily traveled road is only a single lane without full sidewalk access. As you're aware, there is no local entrance to 66 except from Leesburg Pike or Nutley St. (4 mile stretch) so a lot of traffic filters into 66 from Idylwood Rd. I've seen so many bikers on this road holding up traffic because it's so narrow and motorists are afraid to hit them. If there are sidewalks that extend the entire length of Idylwood Rd. between Leesburg Pike and Gallows Rd., at least this moves a lot of the dangerous pedestrian and bike traffic off of the road to the safer sidewalk.

I know this might be a lot to ask for all at once (sidewalks extending all the way on both sides) but at least make it so that full sidewalk access is still available even if the biker or pedestrian needs to cross the street to access some portion of it. Currently, there are at least 4 sections of Idylwood Rd. where this is not possible, endangering the safety of pedestrians, bikers and motorists alike who are trying to avoid them for those brave enough to walk or bike along the non-sidewalked areas.

With the opening of Ruckstuhl Park planned in the future especially with the possibility of no parking within the park, this will become an even greater concern as more residents will be wanting to access the park by non-motorized means.

Please take these considerations into account for your planning as I believe there is a critical need for sidewalks along Idylwood Rd. I've been a property owner in the West Falls Church/Dunn Loring area for 18 years and know the area very well. One property is right near the new park on Cartbridge Rd., the other one borders West Falls Church metro and the other one is near Dunn Loring metro. Idylwood Rd. between Gallows Rd. and Leesburg Pike is a dangerous road and I hope sidewalks can be added to help pedestrians and motorists alike.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please forward to any other entities that this may affect (VDOT?). Please also let me know if you need any additional information. Thank you for your time.

* Good morning,

I would like to request for a safe side walk to be built on Idylwood lane near the site of the future Ruckstuhl park. I understand that the county is considering building one, which I believe is of great need for the safety of our neighborhood.

Thank you for your consideration.

* I live near Idylwood Road (and was formerly a homeowner at 8041 Idylwood) and welcome this park. As a frequent senior-walker-for-health, the need for a walkable Idylwood Road is foremost in my concerns. As it is today (and has been for many years), anyone walking Idylwood between 7 and Gallows is taking a major risk. The presence of a park between these two points increases the likelihood of foot traffic, hence increases the danger as well. I suggest that a simple gravel path along one side of Idylwood or the other, where there are no sidewalks, would be an excellent improvement in both safety and convenience for residents and others using the new park, and would reduce the need for parking in the park itself. I believe that a >paved< sidewalk would be unnecessarily expensive, and probably undesirable as well. Please keep me informed of developments via email or US mail. As I am retired, I'm available for volunteer work of all kinds.

Thank you!

* I understand comments are being requested for Ruckstuhl. Sidewalks, crosswalks and traffic lights for pedestrian safety would be paramount - there is currently no safe way to get to the park site from Idylwood and Rt. 7.

* My comments-resident of dunn loring

- 1) sidewalk across full width of property on idylwood
 - 2)sidewalk up side road to a place with 4-6 parking spaces on side road
 - 3)tot lot with a couple picnic tables
 - 4) natural trail around the remainder of property in a somewhat circle or figure 8 pattern subject to existing tree conditions. bluestone or similar. I actually think i would prefer a 4-6' paved trail as it would be a safe place for kids to ride a bike instead of the street, but not sure if that is the natural intent of the community.
 - 5) I think the property is big enough for it to have two parts, smaller playground section, and larger natural woodlands/fields section. Playground equipment similar to the one in idylwood a couple miles further east (I think it turns into kirby at that point) would be ideal, if not even an additional piece or 2.
 - 6) as your map shows, there is very limited park space in the vicinity, i hope you can allow some active activities in addition to the natural section of the park.
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* Regarding ideas for the Ruckstuhl Park:

- Continuous sidewalks from Barbor Road
- Three way stop at Idyl Lane and Idylwood Road
- Fenced in large toddler play area
- Tether ball for older children
- Benches under trees
- Picnic table area
- Fixed garbage cans
- Tennis or volley ball court
- Paved wide path at outer edges of property for children to bike or adults to jog
- Timed or light sensitive down lights- operated by individual solar panels

Thank you for the opportunity to give input.

* Thank you for your presentation last night on the Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan. It was very informative. I live across the street from the park and would like the park to include a Bird Watching Trail. The trail could include signs giving info on the types of birds that might be found there and benches along the trail so that a visitor could stop and enjoy nature.

* Just wanted to see what the current status of the development of the Ruckstuhl park is. Is there a draft master plan or similar put together yet? Is the park 1-5-10-20 years away?

I live in one of the adjoining communities and everyone in the area is really looking forward to the park being developed and opened for public use.

- * The preliminary master plan for the park looks very good and seems to capture what the Doctor wanted for her property.

My concern and the concern of many in our condo (Idylwood Towers) is the traffic impact it may have. At the moment it is impossible to turn East onto Idylwood Road from Idyl lane now and the park may cause even more of a problem. Though traffic may not fall into your department & plans, please discuss this with whichever department is responsible for traffic flow etc. and voice our concerns. Perhaps a 4 way stop would be feasible.

Please add this to your comment file.

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- * At the intersection of Idyl Lane and Idylwood Rd. there should be a Stoplight and a crossing walk. The actual park has no safe sidewalk for folks to walk on to enter the Ruckstuhl park. Idylwood Rd. has a lot of traffic. It is the main connection from Rt. 7 to Gallows Rd. There are no stoplights along this stretch. I have lived at Idylwood Towers East for 17 years. I was privileged to have Dr. Lilly as one of my frequent customers in my business. We spoke many times of the dangers of trying to cross the road just to collect her mail!!! Her mailbox was on the corner of Idyl Lane and Idylwood Rd. which meant that she had to cross Idylwood Rd. - get her mail - cross again to get home. I always thought it rude of the county to set up that situation. I hope that her wishes will be carried out and that the planners will take serious consideration about the safety the folks she hoped would enjoy her land for many years.

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- * I am a resident in the vicinity of Ruckstuhl Park, and am planning to attend the public information meeting on July 30, 2014. I am interested to learn more about the potential uses of this property. Here are some initial concerns and suggestions.

Concerns:

- Additional traffic/congestion on Idylwood Road would be problematic; comprehensive plan to handle traffic and parking is essential
- Ensuring that the park will have adequate security measures to prevent people from misusing the property after hours; I live across the street from the park and would not want to experience any increase in crime or loitering, which could increase safety risks or lower my property values

Suggestions for future park features:

- Nature trails equipped with dog walk stations
- Recreational activities that are currently lacking in the area, such as swimming pool, tennis courts, miniature golf, etc. (note: Idylwood Park is nearby, and has ample soccer and baseball fields – please do not use this space for these activities, which would add significantly to the traffic/congestion/parking problems)
- Pavilion area that could be used for small concerts, performances, and other community events

Thank you for your consideration.

* I am a neighbor of the newly proposed Ruckstuhl Park residing at Colonel Lindsay Court and am writing to share a few concerns. My wife and I and adult daughters live at 2304 Colonel Lindsay Court and our property is adjacent to and within a few feet proximity to the cemetery and proposed park. As a result of this proximity, my family and neighbors at Colonel Lindsay Court and Drive will be most affected by the creation and/or development of this park.

We are very pleased about the creation of Ruckstuhl Park, which will preserve undeveloped open space for the enjoyment of generations to come. However, we have some concerns that we wish Fairfax County and Park Authority to consider when planning for the future of the park:

1. Before expanding Idylwood Road and/or having a study in regards to the necessity of a traffic light control and sidewalks, I very strongly suggest not make parking spaces at the park as vehicle traffic could be quite problematic and maybe hazardous. If the park is intended for the neighboring communities, then users may access it by walking. A sidewalk must be built in order for pedestrians to use and access the proposed park.
2. Please consider fencing around the park in order to avoid users parking at Colonel Lindsay Court/Drive and walk through our back yards to access the park. Further, limit the entrance and exit to Idylwood Road.
3. We do not support picnic areas, community gardens, construction of ball fields, restrooms, playgrounds, and lights. We favor a low-impact passive park, which maintains the natural environment. We support the minimal construction of a walking and/or hiking nature trail. Trail construction should avoid disruption to the natural environment of the property.
4. The Park should be open only during daylight and not at night.
5. Fairfax County Police and/or Park Authority Security should make a point of stopping by after closing hours to insure compliance and maintain public safety and security. Further maintenance crews should regularly collect trash that park users are expected to generate.

Thank you for your consideration and I hope my concerns would be considered while making the plans for Ruckstuhl Park.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

* Thank you for your presentation last night on the Ruckstuhl Park Master Plan. It was very informative. I live across the street from the park and would like the park to include a Bird Watching Trail. The trail could include signs giving info on the types of birds that might be found there and benches along the trail so that a visitor could stop and enjoy nature.

* I live near the Lilly Ruckstuhl park site, and I am writing to suggest that the county create a meandering path through the lightly wooded area that will allow safe dog-walking and jogging through the area – ultimately connecting with Barbour Road, which connects to the WO&D trail. This is a popular residential area as Tysons expands, and there is no sidewalk in front of the park, so walking along Idylwood Road requires crossing back and forth on the busy street. The nearby Barbour Road neighborhood has no sidewalks and this is a popular cut-through path to Shreve Road. Our residential area needs safe walking paths for people who want to take a leisurely walk without having to dodge cars. We don't need a square, fenced-in dog park as much as we need a place where people can walk their dogs, push their strollers or just get lost in contemplation while still feeling safe. (Much like the WO&D trail.)

Thank you for considering the ideas and feedback of the community.

* Question: would like to know about plans for parking and traffic lights

* I Live in Idle Towers and want to make sure folks don't park in our parking lot

* Would be nice to have a sidewalk. Would like park to be pet friendly.

* Concerned about having access to driveway at end of Dunford Dr.

* Is this going to be a 24 hour park? Will there be lighting?

* Will there be crosswalks from Idylwood Towers?

* Would Dunn Loring be considered a model for this park?

* Security Guards have found people doing illegal things, concerned that those folks will go to the park. How is that handled?

* What will be the relationship with the Lindsey Family Cemetery, will it be maintained or separated by a fence?

* Plan reflects views and opinions expressed in previous meetings. There are huge pressures in how elected officials shape the what they think is the opinion of the community as a whole not just the people who desire to preserve open space for the future. Proposed plan reflects the desires of Lilly Ruckstuhl wanted to see hosting migratory birds, resident birds of the area, dominated by local vegetation, looks like a natural place. People of the community desire to preserve the health of the community based on the birds that are here. Recent development caused the loss of many kinds of birds. This property in its natural state will attract those birds to move back.

* People walking in the park don't know there is a demarkation from the park and the cemetery. People walking dogs unknowingly walking on graves. Interested in seeing the park and cemetery separated by fence or something.

* Echo the comment prior about having the park be pet friendly. Would like a place to walk dog off-leash. Also would like to see sidewalks

* Dr. Ruckstuhl wanted land for wild animal use. Knowing that, you don't want parking, don't want commercial, be pet friendly, a natural trail would be nice.

* Have you done surveys to determine the valuable native plants on the property

* She had all kinds of animals. She didn't want the wildlife to be pushed out. Abundant deer and a family of foxes

* Does the county have a tentative plan? Was told in 2012 that the easement restricted parking.

* Echo the statement about having sidewalks. Will Idylwood Drive be widened before the opening of the park.

* Homeless colony might have an eye on the park. The security will need to keep an eye on it.

* Work at Fairfax Jail and also concerned about homeless having an eye on this property

* Idylwood Road is not pedestrian friendly. Would like sidewalk for pedestrian safety. Was told that the county would need to request a sidewalk.

* Resident of Colonel Lindsay Community. Would like to say I appreciate that the county has worked with community to address concerns. Want property to stay as a natural environment. Happy that the plan has a natural feel to it.

* The community asked for walking trails, walking, jogging, biking. Also community garden. Some flat grassy area for children to play. Dog park is strongly encouraged.

* Is it permissible in easement for a putting green

* is it a possibility to connect to the W&OD Trail?

* As a biker, Idylwood Road is pretty dangerous. It would be great to have connection to W&OD

* I'm assuming there will be a play area for children.

* 480 neighbors. Our concerns are parking, safety and crosswalks. We have elderly and children. We would like to make sure there are walking trails.

* Would like to see a dog park, there is not a good place to walk a dog since there are no sidewalks.

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- * Would it help for the neighborhood to petition VDOT?
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- * Homeowners would like to see a dog park. Safety is also a problem, the road is unsafe and not easily crossed.
-
- * Am in favor of a community garden but not sure this is the place for one.
-
- * Property adjacent to cemetery. Question on timing of decision, when does it go to the board? How and when would it be funded? There is a reference to no structures on land, does that include restrooms? Number one concern is the protection of the cemetery. Much inappropriate activity has gone on there. Fencing sooner rather than later is necessary.
-
- * Natural trails or a board walk would be very nice. Some interpretive signs would be a good idea. A sign about Dr. Ruckstuhl's dream would also be nice.
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- * If this is going to be a neighborhood park, it is necessary to have sidewalks. An open play area for children would be nice but a separate play area for older children would be nice to keep the older children from colliding with the younger children.
-
- * Is there an opportunity to acquire cemetery to make sure it is maintained & protected?
-
- * Would like to see this park bring some beauty to the community.
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- * Some of the neighbors did not receive the mailed information.
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- * Heard about the meeting from Linda Smyth's email.
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- * I would love to this area preserved as a quite natural area without a lot of paving and structures that would take away from the fact that there is such a natural beauty here.
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- * Would like to put a committee together of HOA's to assist in meetings like this.
-
- * Comment on wildlife: invasive plants, eco-system has been impacted. Rats living in area, the barn owl is a natural predator for rats. Children enjoy learning about wildlife. In the spring there are 68 migratory warblers that come through the area. If invasive are left continue to grow they will take over. Birds will encourage native plant growth. Do what we can to provide a dog park if that is what people want but do it in a balanced way.
-
- * Include: Dog park, Picnic tables, Open play areas, walking pat, sidewalks, traffic light
-
- * Minimal lighting, minimal development - keep it rustic, no playground equipment, no exercise equipment, some trails but no bike trails, more trees - let forest, nature rule. Minimal parking (you mentioned VDOT prefers entrance to be across from Idyl Lane but a small parking (4-6 spaces) lot at corner of Idylwood and Dunford would be less intrusive to the overall land and no other road entrance. No community garden. Few if any picnic tables
-
- * If there is no parking at the park they will use our lot. That is unacceptable. Parking is needed
-
- * Glad to have park. Yet we need a safe sidewalk for Idylwood Road. Our road to this park is not safe to walk to the park. Safety is first.
-
- * The intersection is already very busy. The park entrance will add to the traffic issue. A traffic light is necessary.
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* Thoughts....

- * Need traffic calming, light and left hand turn lane on to Idyl; traffic is getting more intense on this road.
 - * Bike and pedestrian lane continuing the length of Idylwood
 - * History - would like to see some signage of the history in this area - who owned the property before Lili Ruckstuhl?
 - * Perhaps area maps like at Hidden Oaks showing progression of change in the area to present.
 - * Engage volunteers / a "friends of" group to help maintain the park, do invasive management etc. (I am a master Naturalist)
 - * I love the idea of using it for classroom
-

- * I would like to see a walking trail (natural) and flower gardens. Sidewalk along Idylwood Rd. for safety. Safe means to cross Idylwood Rd. to the park intersection traffic control at Idyl Lane and Idylwood Rd. Recognition to Dr. Ruckstuhl for her contribution. Benches. Protection for the Lindsey family cemetery/private property. Keep as natural as possible which Dr. Ruckstuhl would like.
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- * As you make decisions regarding preservation and development of the land into a park, here are my concerns:

1) Preservation and respect for the cemetery. Please erect a protection fence around the cemetery as soon as possible. As adjacent residents for more than 20 years, we have been disappointed to see the vandalism to the head stones and inappropriate activity which has occurred around a sacred, historic site.

2) Access. Please limit access to the park to Idylwood Road and Dunford Drive. There are concerns in our neighborhood that people visiting the park will park on Colonel Lindsay Court and walk through our back yards to access the park. This potential problem can be addressed with fencing around the park and the cemetery and provision of adequate parking for park users.

3) Traffic and parking. As noted above, adequate parking for park users is critical, and should be constructed on the park land itself. To encourage walking (and safety), a sidewalk should be constructed on the park frontage on Idylwood Road (also as soon as possible). Traffic is already heavy on Idylwood Road, and a school bus stop is located at the corner of Idylwood and Colonel Lindsay Court, so other traffic enhancements should be considered for the area around the park, such as marked and signed sidewalk crossing from the park to the corner of Idylwood and Pimmit, for the safety of all walkers.

4) Park facilities. I support a low impact, passive park, which maintains the natural environment. I support the construction of a walking/hiking/nature trail, park benches and possibly an educational/nature area and toddler/small-scale playground in the new Ruckstuhl Park. I do not support community gardens, construction of ball fields, restrooms, picnic areas, large playground(s), and lights. As noted above, construction of a protection fence around the cemetery should be installed as soon as possible, along with a plaque, possibly explaining the history of the land as well as giving credit to the generous donors. I do not support picnic area, community gardens and restrooms, which might attract undesirable wildlife (rodents) and require much more (costly) upkeep and maintenance by the Park Authority.

5) Operating Hours. The Ruckstuhl Park should be open only from dawn to dusk, not at night.

6) Maintenance and Security. As referenced above, by not constructing picnic areas, community gardens and restrooms, the amount of maintenance (including trash pickup) by Park Authority staff will be kept to a minimum. It is critical, however, that the new park receive regular visits from Park Authority maintenance crews and Park Authority security and/or County Police, to maintain the park's safety and security for all users.

We are very pleased about the creation of Ruckstuhl Park which will preserve undeveloped open space for the enjoyment of generations to come.

- * What is going to be done about Traffic? Traffic on Idylwood Drive is terrible.
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