

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

1/23/2010 Trails email

Wanted to give you a heads up as there is interest in completing the trail across the front of the park. I'm sure you are aware of the meeting, but the last plans I saw did not include the trail as required in the County Trail plan.

2/4/2010 Agricultural Area At Public Info Meeting

Clarification was requested as to the plans for the "agricultural education area". This is still yet to be determined. Possible examples may be a demonstration garden, community garden or interpretive features used to provide education on sound and/or historic agricultural practices. It is likely to require a partnership with a skilled volunteer group to further define and implement this feature.

2/4/2010 Cultural At Public Info Meeting

Request was made to preserve the cultural landscape of the fields as opposed to creation of additional recreation fields. Specific mention was made of the middle field noted as containing rare herbs and grasses. This will be further explored in the development of the master plan.

2/4/2010 Dog Park parkmail

Let us show restraint of plans for a park for public use. I would like to share my observations of the dog park that existed for about 2 years in N Arlington on Old glebe Road down from Walken Chapel and past the Madison Senior Center and Ethan Allen Fort. My hubby and I walked on sidewalks there and noticed a beautiful site with trees and grass. It became a dog park and we thought "How nice." They had a fenced area, and a large container with plastic for dog owners to put the dog "do-do" bags in. Eventually, the grass was worn away and became a muddy site, and also a very smelly area due to the dog "dodo." Also, the barking dogs were no doubt annoying for the residents across the street. Eventually it closed, and is now a grassy area under trees. Be careful where you put a dog park.

2/4/2010 Easement At Public Info Meeting

Clarification was asked for why some uses are restricted. The conservation easement provides the Park Authority certain rights to create a park but has provisions for a limited number of permitted uses and certain restrictions on how the property can be developed.

2/4/2010 Fields At Public Info Meeting

Clarification was requested regarding the size of the proposed athletic fields. Maximum field sizes are set out in the conservation easement.

2/4/2010 Fields At Public Info Meeting

Question was made as to the true need for additional athletic fields. There is a demonstrated need for rectangle fields Countywide and in particular in the Dranesville District. This high rectangle field need was part of the rationale for including fields in the permitted uses when the conservation easement was negotiated.

2/4/2010 General parkmail

I am writing about the future Salona Park. What a history, what luck to preserve the land at a bargain rate.

2/4/2010 Interpretive At Public Info Meeting

Suggestion for the design of the park to be more focused on preservation of the natural and historic nature of the site, rather than athletics. A clarification on interpretive features was provided. General interpretive feature locations are shown on the conceptual map in the presentation. Interpretation will be guided by the Salona Cultural Landscape Report [ADD LINK](#) and further research as needed.

2/4/2010 Landscaping At Public Info Meeting

Clarification was requested regarding the park buffer noted on the plan. Does it include fencing or landscaping? The buffer is generally a setback area of 50 feet around the site perimeter. Parks are not generally fenced. Landscaping needs are generally determined at the time of development.

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2/4/2010	Lighting	At Public Info Meeting	Question regarding the stringency of the restrictions on field lighting. Would it be added at some point in the future? Field lights are not an allowed use under the conservation easement.
2/4/2010	Maintenance	At Public Info Meeting	Adequate budget to maintain fields and keep clean. Site maintenance is absorbed in the area management/operations. Interested partners are encouraged to participate in adopt a park and field adoption programs.
2/4/2010	Parking	At Public Info Meeting	Suggestion was made of investigating the possibility of a shared parking agreement with Trinity Church to ease parking demand.
2/4/2010	Parking	At Public Info Meeting	Parking lot design should use permeable/porous pavement to reduce runoff and protect site. The Park Authority has many recent park installations that have used pervious pavers and other methods of reducing erosion and runoff. Construction materials will be selected and designed at the time of development.
2/4/2010	Process	At Public Info Meeting	Can all public comments received during the 30-day comment period be posted in a "blog format", visible to all who are interested.
2/4/2010	Process	At Public Info Meeting	Question was made if the comment period is open to anyone? All comments are accepted.
2/4/2010	Restrooms	At Public Info Meeting	Question was made whether there will be restroom facilities provided with site development. If so, how are these maintained? Typically, restrooms are not provided at local parks, but porta-potties are provided and maintained through contract or by field users.
2/4/2010	Skate Park	At Public Info Meeting	Question was asked regarding how citizens can pursue a request for a skate park in McLean.
2/4/2010	Skate Park	At Public Info Meeting	Request was made for a skate park. A skate park is not a permitted use at this site. We have heard from a number of McLean citizens of the high need for a skate park in McLean. Other park opportunities within McLean are being explored but will need to be master planned for such a use.
2/4/2010	Skate Park	email	I just saw the SunGazette article regarding the Salona site. I cant go to the meeting tonight at Franklin Sherman do to a sick child. So with this email I want to ask for a skate park at the Salona site.
2/4/2010	Traffic	At Public Info Meeting	Repeated concerns were expressed about the additional traffic impact when the park is developed, especially as it relates to the sport field usage and parking. .
2/4/2010	Traffic	At Public Info Meeting	Several attendants expressed concerns about athletic field impacts including potential overflow parking on neighborhood streets, noise and visual impacts and field usage when not used by permitted teams. Parking standards for athletic fields are 50 spaces per field. The conservation easement limits the number of parking spaces. Parking on public streets is managed by VDOT. Issues and neighborhood impacts related to athletic fields are managed through the Department of Community and Recreation Services who allocate and manage athletic field usage. Field design will consider potential neighborhood impacts.

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2/4/2010 Traffic At Public Info Meeting
Several comments/suggestions related to the installation of a light at Buchanan Street. Comment was made recognizing the difficulty of enhancing access to the park and neighborhood without further impacting the traffic flow on Route 123 by adding another light.

2/4/2010 Traffic At Public Info Meeting
Encourage pedestrian and bicycle access to the park.

2/4/2010 Traffic At Public Info Meeting
Several requests were made that the traffic impacts are studied in earnest with the development of this property.

2/4/2010 Traffic At Public Info Meeting
This was a major area of concern expressed throughout the evening. Residents already experience significant difficulty entering and leaving their community adjacent to the park.

2/4/2010 Trails At Public Info Meeting
Question was raised about the ability to provide direct access to the park from Kurtz Road. Staff will review this request as it develops the Master Plan.

2/4/2010 Trails At Public Info Meeting
Question was raised regarding pedestrian access along 123, noting gaps between existing sidewalk systems and that proposed with the plan. The conceptual plan shown in the presentation indicates a trail along Route 123 on the park site only. A public trail cannot be placed on private property without the owner's permission or granting of an easement and therefore is not shown on private property..

2/4/2010 Trails At Public Info Meeting
Questions whether there will there be access to the green area behind the house, how trails will be connected at various edges of the property and if a circular trail loop could be considered. Trail locations are sensitive to the central site residence and resources on the site, but will be further explored.

2/6/2010 Trails email
I am writing to ask about your plans concerning construction of a trail on the Salona property frontage along Route 123 when the property is developed by Fairfax County Park Authority. I am the Chairman of the Building Committee of Trinity United Methodist Church. Our property has extensive frontage along 123 and also extends for a block along Buchanan Street across from the Salona property. We recently completed construction of a new building on our property, along with site improvements. One improvement required by the county was construction of a 10 foot wide asphalt trail along our 123 frontage. Upon completion of the trail we dedicated the trail to VDOT. Even though the trail on our property does not join up with a continuation of a trail on either side of our property we did not object to building it because we have been expecting it would become part of a larger trail system and cease to become entirely a "trail to nowhere" as it now mostly is.

2/8/2010 Trails email
Please consider a bike trail down the 123 side of the park. We need it esperately so that we can safely bike into McLean to do our grocery shopping etc. Wouldn't it be great to leave cars at home?

2/9/2010 General email
The masterplanning of Salona Park is an exciting and important event for McLean. This is quite an opportunity - Salona has the potential to become a jewel with its location next to the Business District. As a member of the McLean Planning Committee, the McLean Citizens Association, and the Pedestrian Task Force, I plan to participate in this process and started by attending your first public meeting at Franklin Sherman last Thursday. I generally agree with your presentation and the uses you have mapped out for this outstanding property.

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2/9/2010 Trails email

It is important for the McLean Business District to be connected to greenspaces and active parks in its vicinity, and I have worked to achieve a connection between Bryn Mawr Park and trails along Old Dominion and Pimmit Run in the past. The center of McLean is small enough to allow extensive biking and pedestrian activity, and as available parking in the Business District shrinks under the 20% parking reduction provision of the Revitalization District Ordinance, connection-trails to activity centers become all important

2/9/2010 Trails email

I urge you to put trails, both offsite and onsite, in first place during your Masterplanning process. We can build the most beautiful park, but if access remains limited to adjacent property owners and vehicles, we will just create another major traffic choke point.

2/10/2010 Traffic email

I understand that a park will be built where the Duval property is. I am concerned about how the traffic and parking will be controlled. I live right behind the church and don't want the value and privacy of my home affected by this change. Is there going to be a traffic light at Buchanan?

2/17/2010 Fields, Cricket email

While it is clear Kevin made the parties' expectations pretty clear that the "intent" was for 2 traditional rectangular fields, the language in the easement is open enough – especially if the Grantor and Grantee agree – to permit many other forms of active recreation that fit within the established size and area parameters that can be conducted on natural turf. Of course, community needs and desires would dictate such matters. I can't say I know what that would be, but in many urban parks such things as lawn bowling, croquet, cricket, bocce and a host of other non-traditional active recreation activities are common.

2/17/2010 Process email

How will other potential uses get filtered into the planning document and process? When we met at the McLean Government Center on January 21, a number of potential uses were raised, e.g., dog park and community gardens. I gather some of that came out at the public meeting. What is the process for incorporating such discussion into the draft plan and addressing at the next advertised meeting?

2/18/2010 Trails email

I was present at the meeting on February 4, 2010. I want to add a comment about the proposed trails around the park. I hope that the original intent of keeping with a farm like setting is honored and that the trails will be both pedestrian and equestrian friendly. This would add to the "country" like setting expressed by many of the audience at the meeting.

2/24/2010 Trails email

I would like to make two points that needed to be addressed. The first is the requirement for a trail along 123 between Buchanan and Kurtz. A trail along this frontage is required by the Countywide Trails Plan which has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. I am aware that there is a missing piece between the Solana property and Kurtz Rd on the corner of 123 and Kurtz, the address of which is 1251 DOLLEY MADISON BLVD. This property according to county records is unbuildable and is currently assessed at \$6000.00. If the property could be purchased, an easement obtained or even donated, it would allow access from the Kurtz rd neighbored into the park which is missing from the plan shown at the presentation on February 4th.

2/24/2010 Trails email

The second point is that the plan shown does not provide for access to the park directly from Kurtz. For years the public has cut through the property from Buchanan to Kurtz. And I would guess that they will continue to cut through once the park is open. It would make sense for the plan to at least include a trail connection to avoid this occurring.

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3/2/2010 Process email

While initial focus on the fields that abut Dolly Madison and Buchanan Street has been toward the possible construction of two soccer fields, clearly a permitted use under the easement, many alternative uses should be considered for this uniquely situated and central open space with its proximity to the pending revitalization plans of the Mclean Planning Committee. Given the many potential uses of this site, as well as the immediate shortage of park funds for any development there, I would hope the Authority will hold additional hearings to solicit a broad range of ideas of possible uses of this property consistent with the easement's provisions. Clearly the wider Mclean community should have the opportunity to offer alternative uses for this site than those presented at the initial meeting on February 4. I trust the Authority, Kevin Fay and John Foust will present such opportunities to the citizens of Mclean before any plan for this site is considered and adopted.

3/2/2010 Process email

This comment is submitted following the initial public informational meeting on February 4, 2010, at which I was not in attendance. I am pleased that the Authority has begun this public process of "evaluating alternatives" of uses and activities on the property within the constraints of the granted easement. As Kevin Fay recognized, this 41 acre property is "the crown jewel" of Mclean open space. Its location in the central area of Mclean opens the doors to many opportunities for uses to appeal to a broad spectrum of interests in greater Mclean and Dranesville.

3/4/2010 Agriculture,Fields email

Just so we're clear on one important issue, it is our very strong opinion, and that of many people in the community who have spoken to us, that the agricultural use of the fields at Salona should be instead of, not in addition to, converting them to sports fields. Not only is such use much more consistent with and protective of the historical uses and the cultural and natural resources Salona represents, but it would also avoid the horrendous traffic congestion, noise and parking issues that would inevitably result from installing a sports complex adjacent to Dolley Madison Boulevard.

3/4/2010 General email

There is a wealth of information and ideas here, so much of which is worth exploring for Salona! We do appreciate the Park Authority's support in considering alternate, agricultural, uses for the historic property at Salona.

3/4/2010 Process email

Also, as the initial 30-day comment period is coming to a close, we are concerned that there has not been sufficient opportunity for widespread community input into the process. Many persons in McLean to whom we have mentioned the process were unaware that the planning for the Salona park had commenced. I'm sure the snowstorms have been a contributing factor, but we certainly hope that the public has ample opportunity to provide input and consider suggestions, such as those from Ms. Reinsdorf, before the preliminary plan takes on a life of its own. Thanks very much for your support and for your interest in Salona,

3/24/2010 Trails email

Is this decided upon already? I was out of town when the ONE meeting I heard about was held at Franklin-Sherman School, but just reviewed the slides from that meeting, and I'm not sure I want trails that will lead to people walking in my backyard all the time! Why weren't we asked about this before now?

4/3/2010 Acquisition email

Eventual acquisition of the historic building and outbuildings should be an integral part of the plans for the use of any and all parts of the easement.

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4/3/2010 Cultural email

Like Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall, this property has unique historical significance, and I hope that that fact will be at the forefront of all decisions made concerning its use. Salona is a tangible and visible piece of our economic history. Agriculture was the economic lynchpin of Virginia from its founding, and the Salona property remains thus far as an example of farming in Northern Virginia. One can see how the farm worked, with the agricultural fields to the north of the building and the pasture to the south. That the fields to the north, as your report says, "comprise the largest remaining open meadow in this part of Fairfax County" should alert all who are planning for their use that this property is unique. Salona teaches history by its association with historic names and events. It was one of the properties of the Lee family, known by even the casual history student for roles members of the family played in the Revolution and the Civil War. In the next few years, the nation will be recognizing the bicentennial of the War of 1812, when Dolley Madison fled to Virginia as the British invaded and burned Washington, and the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, when McClellan and the Union Army appeared at Salona.

4/3/2010 Natural email

Salona also provides an irreplaceable example of northern Virginia ecology, as your report recognizes. The "hedgerows provide important ...roosting habitat for wildlife," and, together, the fields and the hedgerows...contain at least 100 native and non-native plant species." This is property of enormous environmental and ecological significance. Like Mount Vernon and Gunston Hall, Salona lies just outside the nation's capital. As a whole, the property has the potential to educate future generations of scholars and tourists. I know that there is pressure to convert part of the northern fields into a parking lot and playing fields. This is arguably a good use of the property, but doing that might irreversibly affect the possibility of using the property for historic and environmental education.

6/7/2010 Dog Park email

I am a resident in Evermay in McLean, Va. I am interested in getting information on how to go about getting a dog park in McLean. I have met several people who wish we had a place, locally, to take our dogs. Also, I am an avid walker and am wondering why our main roads aren't more walker friendly. I cross over 123 to 193 frequently and it's very difficult to get to the walking path once you have reached the 193 side of 123. It would also be very nice if there was a walking path on 123. There is space for one and it would be so much safer for walkers/joggers. Fairfax county is one of the wealthiest counties in the country. As home owners, we pay thousands in taxes each year. Having a dog park and walker friendly paths would only enhance our community.

7/5/2010 Fields email

Concern that the field could be turf fields and therefore, would have higher frequency of use all year round. We would prefer the fields not be artificial turf.

7/5/2010 Parking email

We strongly believe that a 100 car parking lot for three rectangular playing fields will be inadequate and that cars will overflow to park in our neighborhood streets. (Reference Draper Park in Fairfax City. Their 100 car parking lot does not accommodate the number of cars present when their two fields are being used for tournaments, etc.) At a minimum, we would need no parking signs throughout the neighborhood and parking enforcement. Even so, the parking issue could be a nightmare. And, if church is used as overflow parking, ensure legal agreement in place with church and enforced no parking on neighborhood streets.

7/5/2010 Safety email

This represents a safety concern to us, as well as a diminishing of our privacy. -We do not want a trail/park access off of Menlo Court. Our neighborhood sees no benefit to us and we don't want to encourage strangers to come back into the privacy of our neighborhood, park in Menlo Court and access the park.

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7/5/2010 Traffic email

Need for a traffic light or some VDOT improvement to safely turn left off Buchanan onto Rte. 123 during peak traffic hours, to be accentuated with traffic from the park if the park entry is off of Buchanan. (Just visit Lewinsville Park off Chain Bridge Road during Soccer season when practices let out and you'll see what chaos that is!) We have difficulty safely getting out of our neighborhood today. If we add the increased traffic from the park, getting out of our neighborhood will be intolerable. Could we consider having the park entrance off of 123? If not, why not? We would be interested in considering having the entrance to the park off of 123 vs. Buchanan (perhaps across from the townhome community since there is already a cut through on 123-but we certainly need to get that community involved.) This could alleviate the traffic problems from our neighborhood, but would still make exiting the park onto Rte. 123 dangerous without the installation of a traffic light*.

7/5/2010 Traffic email

I have been in touch with Donald Moyer of VDOT, who is willing to do a traffic study at the intersection of Rte. 123 and Buchanan Streets based on our concerns. I have requested that Mr. Moyer/VDOT conduct this survey during the school year and conduct it during rush hour. This study needs to be more than an electronic surveillance, it should also include a live person to observe the traffic challenges during rush hour and the dangerous situation we find ourselves in trying to turn left onto 123 during these peak traffic times.

7/5/2010 Trails email

Concern that the walking trail will be situated too close to the back property lines on Darnall or streets in Salona 1 subdivision and therefore, reduce the privacy of our back yards and increase security concerns. Can walking trails be deeper in the wooded area?

7/5/2010 Trails email

We do not want a trail/park access off of Menlo Court. Our neighborhood sees no benefit to us and we don't want to encourage strangers to come back into the privacy of our neighborhood, park in Menlo Court and access the park. This represents a safety concern to us, as well as a diminishing of our privacy.

7/15/2010 Fields email

I'm a member of EQAC and am interested in the plans for the Salona Property. Heather Schinkel recommended you as the person who knows the history and the latest info. I am hoping that the property can be used for purposes other than ball fields. I have heard that Salona is not appropriate for fields because there can't be lighting or astro turf, and that there is better land available for ball fields, I think by Claude Moore Park.

7/19/2010 Process phone

Would like blog so that we can all post comments and communicate simultaneously.

7/19/2010 Safety phone

Concerned about teenagers drinking and hanging around at Menlo Court.

7/19/2010 Traffic phone

Traffic is a problem getting out of Buchanan Street now, concerned that park will increase traffic issues.

7/19/2010 Trails phone

Would like trail that crosses park so that neighbors on both sides can cross park without walking on 123.

8/25/2010 Trails email

Is purchasing a home adjacent to Salona. Her realtor gave her information from 2005 about plans for the park and she is very concerned about the trail and its impact on her home and privacy.

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10/7/2010 Fields parksweb

Contrary to what County citizens have said they want-- building athletic fields grouped together in a complex--there is a top-down effort to bring rectangular athletic fields to what should be a cultural/environmental education oriented historical park with low impact leisure activities, such as multi-use courts and a nature center.

10/7/2010 Funding parksweb

Public-private partnerships for funding environmentally sustainable practices, such as organic gardening, rain gardens, and wildflower meadows.

10/7/2010 Process parksweb

Thank you for your comments. I am quite familiar with the consultation process. My concern is that, having read the draft plan for this site and the accompanying cultural heritage report, that the two goals that are in theory trying to be maximized are actually in direct conflict-- ie conservation and active recreation. Destruction of the meadows for soccer fields is what the plan shows. There has not even been a comprehensive biological inventory of this site yet! I have to wonder what the biologists are thinking, signing off on this. There must be political pressure from above. I know I would have been fired from a park management job in just about any other state for suggesting the uses as mapped for this site. My children both play soccer, and we believe there are plenty of fields available for our use that are appropriate. It is not appropriate use in my opinion to put rectangular fields on the front lawn of Mount Vernon, which is what this is akin to. Salona is a national and state historic property, and I just am dumbfounded by this plan. Where are the alternatives citizens asked for last winter?

10/7/2010 Process parksweb

My suggestion involves a strategy specifically to address threatened cultural/natural resources. I think great care should be taken to ensure that park planning be appropriate to each site. There is a danger when 'County-wide' strategies are used to guide land use decisions, namely, that local resource and community needs could be trampled on. A good example of this are the draft plans for Salona. Contrary to what County citizens have said they want-- building athletic fields grouped together in a complex--there is a top-down effort to bring rectangular athletic fields to what should be a cultural/environmental education oriented historical park with low impact leisure activities, such as multi-use courts and a nature center. As far as I have seen, there has been no local effort to ask McLean residents what they'd like to see at Salona.

10/18/2010 General email

While the neighbors in Salona 2, as we're often referred to, are very appreciative of that fact that the Salona land is in a conversation pact and can never turn into a field of 100 town homes. We are also appreciative of the fact that the Park Authority is open public input to the park's planning and development, we do feel that we are THE group directly affected by the decisions made during this process. Our families' lives and safety will be the most affected (not to mention our property values) by the decisions made about the park and as tax payers, we of course expect our local government to take our concerns seriously and address them completely. We look forward to a productive, constructive discussion about these issues in the meeting or before, if appropriate. I am happy to discuss this further before the November meeting if you'd like. Thank you for your attention to this and please let me know how our neighborhood can assist in making the November meeting as productive and constructive as possible.

10/18/2010 Parking email

The current master plan still calls for a 100 car parking lot. Regardless of the formula being used, this will not be enough parking IF even two rectangular playing fields are constructed at the park. We need to know what parking overflow and or "no Parking" arrangements are being made for the park to address this concern. Re: the Draper Park reference...my two daughter's both play MYS soccer and while Draper Park is a great facility, there are at least 20+ cars overflowing into the surrounding area all day Saturday and Sunday. We cannot subject our neighborhood to this and its obvious associated problems (safety (pedestrian and traffic), trash, etc).

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10/18/2010 Process email

I wanted to circle back with you as we look forward to the public meeting for Salona Park coming up in November. Please revisit my original e-mail below. While I hold no official role in the neighborhood, I did volunteer to be the scribe at our June neighborhood meeting and therefore, am electing to write you again now. In reviewing the current draft master plan for Salona Park, it doesn't appear as if many if any of our concerns have been addressed in the current master plan. I know you want to have a productive meeting in November, but I can say with pretty solid assurance that members of my community...the community most directly impacted by the park, will be expecting specific answers to the concerns we have outlined below and were bourn out of the neighborhood meeting we had in June where 80% of our neighbors were present and continue to communicate on this topic via e-mail. It would be helpful if there could be specific answers, with appropriate opportunity for dialogue, about the following concerns that we outlined to you in early July.

10/18/2010 Traffic email

I have not followed up with VDOT of late, but I will before the November community meeting. However, regarding the park entrance, your note to us said that the county transportation department established that the park entrance cannot be off of 123. Can we have an explanation as to why it can't be located off 123?

10/18/2010 Trails email

The master plan still shows a trail access at Menlo and the neighborhood does not want this. What is the purpose of this access point? Per the master plan document, it is noted, there is "inappropriate trash, etc" there today. We know teenagers use this court to "park" on the weekends. Why would we want to promote this area which is located directly next to three private homes? We need to have a better explanation as to why this access point continues to be on the plan? What purpose does it serve?

10/18/2010 Trails email

Concern that the walking trail will be situated too close to the back property lines on Darnall or streets in Salona 1 subdivision and therefore, reduce the privacy of our back yards and increase security concerns. Can walking trails be deeper in the wooded area? This also does not appear to be addressed in the current master plan.

10/21/2010 Dog Park email

As I was reading your description about putting a dog park in it said if no sponsor agrees to assist in the operation of this facility....

What are you looking for as far as sponsor?

Do I need to round up all the dog owners in McLean and ask them to sponsor or are you looking at a corporate or boy scout troop?

10/22/2010 Parking email

Thank you for your note and all the detailed information. My concerns was that while you had e-mailed me with some of this data before, it was not reflected in the current master plan that is on the website for review and I was concerned that something had slipped between the cracks.

So, to restate briefly what I've read: Parking-will be assesses based on the planned features of the park. Makes perfect sense. (BTW, Draper park may have 86 spaces and yes, they do hold tournaments, but on an average Saturday or Sunday with just two teams playing per field, families still need to park in the surrounding neighborhoods. The issue is the cross over between game times. So, before one game has ended, the next teams are arriving to warm up. Therefore, you have a tremendous overflow situation at the "turn over" times. Perhaps the specs need to be revisited, but that's another issue.)

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10/22/2010 Traffic email

Traffic impact measure: the FCDOT and the VDOT will collaborate on this. Don-for the traffic study, please be sure to assess the traffic during rush hour. We can easily wait 5+ minutes to get out of the neighborhood during these peak times. ANY solution to improve the safety at these times is greatly appreciated. Our biggest fear is that a young driver will attempt to navigate across 123 during these chaotic traffic hours and be killed. It is truly a REAL concern for our families. The posted speed changes from 45 to 35 right around that point and I can guarantee you that speeds far exceed that during some times of rush hour. Of course, when the traffic is standing still, someone usually takes pity on us and lets us out. But, if the traffic is heavy and moving...going 50+, YOU CANNOT make your way across the road to turn left into McLean without peril. I think those are the highlights. Thank you and we look forward to the community meeting.

10/22/2010 Trails email

Trails location-nothing is in stone and the location of trails and trail outlets will be determined at the time of development and with the blessing of the Duvall family. This addition information about the Duvall's involvement is appreciated because I know they are very interested in making sure the neighborhood supports the park and all its features.

10/26/2010 Dog Park email

Thank you for your response. Has anyone in the McLean area come forth and told you they would be interested in starting an OLDA? If so can you give me contact information? If no one else has stepped forward to organize this I have put together a hotmail account: mcleandogpark@hotmail.com You can give that email out freely to anyone who has shown an interest in a dog park in McLean. Thank you again for the information hopefully I can pull something together by the 17th.

10/28/2010 Process email

Not many communities in our country have had the opportunity that Fairfax County has before it because of the conservation easement granted by the owners of Salona, one of the most perfect pieces of undisturbed and historic land in McLean. This opportunity is one that I -- and many others in our community --believe cannot be squandered. Salona can become a local park that will showcase 21st Century technology, sustainability and environmental stewardship for all ages. We have had interest expressed by a number of higher education institutions to become involved in making this a model of green technology that can attract wide community support ... if that community has the opportunity to voice its preferences. I call on the Park Authority Board to assure the McLean community that no final vote will take place on the Salona Park Master Plan until such time that you have met with and received meaningful input from the residents and organizations in McLean, as your own public process requires. By your own admission, Fairfax County does not have the funds at this time to proceed, so why not use that time in a productive and positive manner to do it right the first time and give Fairfax County and McLean something more than athletic fields and a parking lot.

10/29/2010 Dog Park email

Three ladies have now met and we are going to gauge the amount of interest. I have printed off flyers for the vets offices and cards for us to hand out. We have an email address we are asking people to send their request and information to mcleandogpark@hotmail.com, and it is a group on facebook as a group McLean Dog Park if anyone calls or is interested please give them that information.

10/29/2010 Dog Park email

Also if we make certain requests on the plans does that mean a lot of extra time or money? Do you all have a standard Dog park layouts. I know the park in Arlington has picnic tables which I think should be taboo. As the one thing on the picnic table is usually a muddy dog. I would like to see the webbed benches (so rain can drain easily and quickly, an area that is under cover, not a big thing but enough to hide out is it is really cold, wet or windy. A small dog area adjoining a large or general dog area. Depending on the size a number of posts holding doggie duty bags, and of course containers to hold the filled doggie duty bags.

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10/29/2010 Dog Park email

We think this would be a much better place for a dog park than the staging area off of 495 and Georgetown pike for the safety and welfare of the dogs. If one escapes over at Salona we have a chance to grab him before he hits 123 and even then people do stop when they see a dog in the road. Over at the staging area if one escapes it is certain death under the wheels of a car or tractor trailer and probably an accident on top of that. Thanks for your help I think this could be a great thing for McLean and certainly something that would be lower impact to the neighbors as the park would be closed from dusk to dawn. It will cut back on my walking though.

10/29/2010 Funding email

One of our ladies wants to start fund raising already but I made the request we wait until we see how much interest is out there before we start this whole thing. I do have the paperwork to request a grant from Fairfax County in the amount of 10,000.00. How long do you think it takes from soup to nuts to get one of these going and built?

10/29/2010 Funding email

Also if we get sponsors like companies to underwrite some of the expense is there a place to put up a plaque? Or can we have bricks or something dedicated to past pets, friends or people to help raise money for this thing that are displayed? Has anyone done that that you know of?

10/29/2010 Process email

It has come to my attention that a draft master plan for the Salona property has been developed without the McLean community being given the opportunity to evaluate alternative designs and uses. As a resident of McLean since 1970, I request the Board stop the consideration of the Salona master plan, and instead provide a planning workshop to solicit citizen views on the use and design of this parcel, followed by an evaluation of various alternatives with the McLean community. Further, an inventory of wildlife existing on the land should be conducted and this information, along with the 2008 Cultural Landscape Report should be taken into account in the final Master Plan for Salona.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/3/2010 Process email

RESOLUTION REGARDING PARK AUTHORITY MASTER PLAN FOR THE SALONA PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Salona property comprises approximately 52 acres at the center of which is the property's residential core of 7.8 acres, which core is protected in perpetuity by a 1971 easement to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; and

WHEREAS, Salona was listed on the "National Register of Historic Places" in July 1973 and on the "Virginia Landmarks Register" in June 1973; and

WHEREAS, in December 2005 approximately 41.5 acres of the Salona property were placed under a conservation easement with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) as the grantee with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust designated as the party with standing to enforce the terms of the easement; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation element of the adopted Countywide Policy Plan of The Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County, Virginia - 2007 Edition, as amended, states: "Fairfax County should support the conservation of appropriate land areas in a natural state to preserve, protect, and enhance stream valleys, meadows, woodlands, wetlands, farmland, and plant and animal life" and further includes as an objective that Fairfax County should "protect appropriate land areas in a natural state to ensure preservation of significant and sensitive natural resources."

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has established the Open Space/Historic Preservation Easements Program, committed to conserving natural and heritage resources as allowed by the Code of Virginia, such as open space, sensitive environmental resources, trees, scenic vistas, historic sites and recreation uses such as trails. Fairfax County policy encourages the use of conservation easements to preserve Heritage Resources for the aesthetic, social, and education benefits of present and future citizens, and Heritage Resources are defined as "those sites or structures, including their landscape settings that exemplify the cultural, architectural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the County or its communities," including sites or structures, like Salona, listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites;

WHEREAS, a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) was prepared for FCPA in July 2008 by John Milner Associates, Inc., an independent cultural resources consultant, to support FCPA's efforts regarding treatment, protection, and future planning for Salona's historic landscape; and

WHEREAS, the CLR notes that the Salona property contains buildings, structures, archaeological resources, and landscape features that are of interpretive, educational, and scientific value to the public and is one of the last sizeable open spaces in McLean; and

WHEREAS, the CLR specifically notes that "the three fields in the north third of the property have developed, possibly by design, into the largest contiguous patch of meadow remaining in this part of Fairfax County" and that "these fields and the hedgerows that border them contain at least 100 native and non-native plant species, including trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs."

WHEREAS, the CLR also notes the following significant attributes of those three fields:

"this area retains a high level of historic integrity due to its spatial configuration and the presence of the historic drainage channels and road trace. It is highly sensitive to change due to its historic integrity and also to its current environmental qualities as meadow, hedgerow and wetland. The primary goals in the Northern Fields zone are, in this order, to preserve the existing contributing historic features and the more recent environmental features, interpret both, and render them accessible to the public."
(Emphasis added).

"the recent suburban construction which surrounds the property today has cocooned it in an almost forgotten era when many such farmers made their living from the land, preserving and protecting it for

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

their future generations. Despite the surrounding changes, the property itself has altered little and remains as a testament to an earlier era when Virginia was founded on and sustained by an agrarian economy.”

“vegetation within the field complex is varied in type and quality, including native wet meadow and upland species. According to Charles Smith of the Park Authority, altogether, the three fields, referred to as the eastern, western, and central fields, comprise the largest remaining open meadow in this part of Fairfax County.”

“The central field, the largest of the three at 5.9 acres, is considered particularly special and rare in its composition and stability. Different in character from the other two fields, the central field harbors a consistent cover of Indian grass and numerous other native meadow species, such as switch grass (*Panicum virgatum*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and forbs. This unusually high quality of meadow is extremely rare in Fairfax County.”

“In sum, the Salona agricultural landscape survives today as one of very few such landscapes that remain relatively intact in Fairfax County.”

“This meadow, part of which is a designated wetland, and the hedgerows that enclose it have become important wildlife habitat and should be protected as an environmental resource for Fairfax County;” and

WHEREAS, the FCPA held only one preliminary public meeting on February 4, 2010 prior to preparing a draft master plan dated June 22, 2010 which contained three alternative concept plans, and subsequent to transmitting this draft to the FCPA Board in July 2010, FCPA prepared a second draft master plan dated July 22, 2010 (Draft Master Plan) containing a single, preferred alternative, all of which are inconsistent with FCPA’s own public participation process as set forth on its “Park Planning and Development webpage;”

WHEREAS, the second Draft Master Plan dated July 22, 2010 (referenced above) was not made available to the public on the Salona webpage until September 15, 2010, nearly two months subsequent to delivery to the FCPA Board for review.”

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan calls for the installation on 10 acres of the site of, among other features, two rectangular natural turf playing fields, a dog park, a playground and a 100-car parking lot in the northern fields; and

WHEREAS, the Draft Master Plan also notes as alternative or interim uses the continued preservation of native grasses, environmental programming, community gardens, horticultural and agricultural education or demonstration areas, public art displays, amphitheatre, history demonstration or reenactment areas, community gathering space for outdoor events such as festivals, and unstructured play areas; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council has repeatedly called for the Fairfax County Park Authority to fully honor its charter which gives as the two co-equal parts of its mission (1) preservation and stewardship of the natural resources entrusted to it and (2) development of facilities such as playgrounds and ball fields within park properties for the use of surrounding citizens; and

WHEREAS, the second item in the mission statement has been disproportionately implemented in the greater McLean area while the first item has remained substantially underfulfilled; and

WHEREAS, the significance of the Salona property from a cultural, historic and natural resource perspective merits a comprehensive public input process to develop a community resource that would best serve the McLean Community; and

WHEREAS, there is currently scheduled a second and final public meeting on November 17, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) calls for an

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open, public planning process that permits opportunities to develop and fairly consider the ideas referenced in the "alternative and interim uses" language of the Draft Master Plan, to ensure the unique historic, cultural and natural resource values of the Salona property are protected; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MCA calls on the FCPA to work with MCA and the Dranesville District Supervisor's office to schedule public workshops to allow community input into the development of the listed alternative uses and other compatible alternative uses to ensure that the master plan for Salona reflects the McLean community's views as to the appropriate uses for this unique property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the MCA calls on FCPA not to schedule a vote on any draft master plan for Salona until after such public workshops and any appropriate additional public meetings have been held and a draft master plan has been developed that reflects the McLean community's input and concerns.

Adopted by the Board of Directors of the McLean Citizens Association
At its regular monthly meeting on November 3, 2010.

11/4/2010 Nature Center email

It is my understanding that you are interested in hearing our ideas for the Salona Park development. We are very encouraged by your interest especially given the scarcity of true public input on this very important community matter.

We feel that there is a significantly better alternative for this incredible site. An alternative with the true intention and mission to serve the McLean community. We have generated an alternative site development option that:

speaks to the rich historical character of Salona, celebrates and preserves its rare and valuable land and environmental resources, and provides a learning venue for children and community members alike. We are working on presenting a brief summary of those ideas at the November 17th public hearing to promote interest. We are very excited about the vision we're bringing to the table and hope that it will spark an enlightened view about the possibilities for this truly unique site. We are also prepared to elaborate on our ideas in a forum that permits more time for us to do so. Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have any further questions or if you wish to discuss further.

11/11/2010 Cricket email

On behalf of the Mclean Cricket Club, an organization focusing in espousing cricket as a recreational sports for youth and adults in the Mclean/Great Falls area, I would like to present our suggestion for a Cricket field for the Salona Park in Mclean. A general idea of a cricket field can be found at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cricket_field#ICC_standard_dimensions.

Furthermore, I would like to present this concept, of the open cricket field, during this upcoming session and hope you can put me on the agenda. I would appreciate your guidance in this.

11/12/2010 Cricket email

Thank you for taking the time today to discuss cricket. The following is a video of IPL Cricket held earlier in the year. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e4AIO9dTieU>
Please let me know if you have any question.

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11/13/2010

General

GPGC-Parkmail

The following comments relate to the McLean Planning District Plan, with specific reference to the 41-acre Salona Park easement. Page number references are to the pages in the McLean District Plan. P. 4 □ A future park at Salona would meet the definition of a "Resource Based Park" (as set forth in the adopted "Park Classification System") due to its "significant cultural and natural resources." The definition listed on page 4 does not limit "Resource Based Parks" only to stream valley parks. Salona has been identified in the extensive "Salona Cultural Landscape Report," dated July 2008 and prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., as having a significant and sensitive historic and natural landscape worthy of protection. Any future park facilities planned on this historic property, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Landmarks Register and which is specifically identified as a heritage resource in the adopted Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, must reflect the context of the site and be distinguished from other local parks. P. 10 □ Garden plots are specifically identified under the Park Authority's theme of Community Building as a place "where people can interact and build community". Garden plots also rank very high in the 2004 Needs Assessment Final Report. It should be noted that the "reservable community garden plot area" at Lewinsville Park referred to on page 10 is, in fact, oversubscribed. There are no plots available and the waiting list is closed. We have been informed by a Park Authority staff member that at the present time there are no garden plots actually available for reservation in any Park Authority park in Fairfax County, and that there are no spaces available on any waiting list except for one park that is well outside the McLean area. P. 10 □ The 41-acre conservation easement on the Salona property offers an excellent opportunity for community building activities and, as page 10 suggests, such parks should be well-designed and promote social interaction. Given the unique status of this property, park uses on the site must not adversely impact the surrounding neighborhoods and should reflect the unique historic context of the site. Regarding the identified need for a dog park, referenced on page 10, a dog park is not identified as a permitted use under the terms of the Salona conservation easement and, therefore, should not be considered for the Salona Park Master Plan. PP. 12-13 The stated strategy to "develop one or two rectangular athletic fields at Salona Park", besides being inappropriate for the reasons stated in the comment below, appears to be a strategy to address the anticipated population growth generated predominantly by new high-rise residential development in the Tysons Corner Urban Center. The facility needs engendered by the development at Tysons Corner should not dictate the facilities to be developed for the McLean community at the Salona Park. P. 13 □ Since the Salona Park Master Plan process is on-going, the first sentence on page 13 should be rewritten to read as follows: "If shown on the final adopted Park Master Plan, then one or two rectangular, natural turf athletic fields without lights, may be developed at Salona Park." Substantive dialogue with the McLean community about the future use of the meadows and wetlands surrounding the Salona House is scheduled to commence on November 17 (after the November 15 deadline for comments on the "Great Parks, Great Communities" document). Therefore, it would be premature and inappropriate to include the sentence as currently written in the draft document. Furthermore, as noted below, the draft "Great Parks, Great Communities" plan states that "the meadow complex on the Salona Property on Route 123 contains several high quality eastern meadow stands that are some of the best in Fairfax County," which, given the Park Authority's stated theme of Resource Stewardship and its finding (page 19) that "meadow and upland habitats are especially scarce," should be protected by the Park Authority, not considered for conversion to athletic fields and a large parking lot. P. 15 □ It should be noted that this draft plan states that "The McLean District is well served by local parks, except along the Potomac River and in the Tysons Corner area." This is another reason why a different type of "Resource Based Park" should be considered at Salona. P. 16 □ Salona and the surrounding 41-acre conservation easement area should be added to the list of known historic structures (in the third bullet) as a unique place deemed worthy of protection for "preservation for future generations" given its designation as a national and state historic landmark (as reflected on the "Inventory of Historic Sites" in the McLean section of the adopted Comprehensive Plan). P. 17 □ Salona's conservation easement area is conspicuously absent from the list of cultural resources worthy of "resource interpretation" and "stewardship" as described on page 17. While Salona is not a County-designated historic district and the 51 acres associated with the historic farm will remain in private ownership, clearly the 41-acre conservation easement area should be planned in accordance with the many laudable guidelines found through-out pages 16-20 of the draft "Great Parks, Great Communities" document. Based upon the significant and detailed findings of the "Salona Cultural Landscape Report" (prepared in 2008 for the Park Authority by John Milner Associates, Inc.), page 17 should be revised to include Salona, and the Salona Park master planning

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process should carefully consider and reflect the report's findings about this significant and sensitive historic landscape. P. 18 "Issues" and "Strategies" listed on page 18 pertain directly to possible construction of active recreation facilities and a parking lot on the 41-acre agricultural complex of the Salona historic house and farmland. Given the extraordinarily unique War of 1812 and Civil War context of Salona, archaeological surveys listed on page 18 should be completed prior to adoption of any master plan for the future park at Salona. County and privately-funded archaeologists, historic preservation planners and naturalists should be actively involved in community dialogue about the future Salona Master Plan, given the "Strategies" described on page 18 of the draft "Great Parks, Great Communities" report. P. 19 The draft "Great Parks, Great Communities" plan recognizes that meadow and upland habitat are especially scarce in the McLean Planning District, and across Fairfax County, stating: "The meadow complex on the Salona Property on Route 123 contains several high quality eastern meadow stands that are some of the best in Fairfax County." Accordingly, future parkland at Salona should maximize this unique resource and make it available for interpretative and educational use by McLean residents and school children, many of whom would be able to access the site on foot. P. 20 Three "Strategies" listed on page 20 of the McLean District Plan state: "Ensure that natural resources are assessed prior to any park development...; Use design principles that minimize natural resource impacts...; and Conduct natural resource inventories..." Given the significance of Salona, all three strategies should be implemented prior to completion of a master plan for the 41-acre Salona conservation easement area.

11/14/2010 Cultural parksweb

I am very concerned about the references to the Salona Park property in the Plan. The Plan as now drafted does not sufficiently account for the unique natural and historic nature of the Salona Property. In addition to having one of the best few remaining examples of native meadowland still existing in McLean, its historic relevance -- having played a documented role in both the War of 1812 and the Civil War -- is without par. The Plan should specifically emphasize these features of the Salona property, and any future use of the land should be directed toward preserving and enhancing these features. Use of the property for athletic fields and a parking lot would be a waste of this property's unique qualities, which cannot be duplicated elsewhere; athletic fields, on the other hand, can be located anywhere. Moreover, the McLean Planning District has ample athletic fields, but very few park resources of the historical and natural relevance of the Salona property. The Salona property offers a unique opportunity to satisfy the Great Parks, Great Communities Plan's stated goals of preserving historic and meadowland spaces and making them available for educational and community-building purposes; the Plan should be specific in recognizing and dedicating the Salona property to such important community purposes. The Salona property easily meets the definition of a "Resource Based Park" due to its "significant cultural and natural resources," which should be protected for generations to come.

11/14/2010 Process parksweb

At a minimum, the unique natural resources offered by the Salona property should be thoroughly assessed, and full opportunity be given for public review of alternative uses for these important resources (besides athletic fields and a parking lot) before any decision is made about the use for this property.

11/15/2010 Cricket phone call

Very interested in a cricket field at Salona. Would prefer natural turf field (and pitch) because there is an increase in injuries on synthetic turf. Cricket is one of the most popular sports world wide, but 16th in US, and is a \$3 billion dollar industry world wide. Nameing rights could generate funding from the venue. The field could be used for interm events. Cricket playing seaso is from April to October. Could be used to promote healty living if health food was allowed to be sold onsite.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/15/2010 Cultural parksweb

I am very concerned about the implications of the Plan for the Salona property, and in particular that the Plan as now drafted does not account for the unique historical and environmental nature of the property. The property has significant historical importance. Moreover, it is one of the few remaining examples of native meadowland still existing in McLean. The Plan should explicitly address these unique attributes, and plan for use of the property in a way that emphasizes those features. It would be a terrible waste to build athletic fields and a parking lot on this property. Athletic fields can be located on most any open space area. Salona is a unique property that presents an opportunity to address the Plan's stated goals of preserving historic and meadowland spaces and making them available for educational and community-building activities.

11/15/2010 Cultural / Natural email

2. At the minimum, this property deserves to have a wildlife inventory done, as well as the finding and recommendations of the July 2009 "Cultural Landscape Report" be reflected in the final Master Plan for Salona. The current draft Master Plan calls for two large soccer fields and a 100 car parking lot, on the current site of 3 beautiful meadows. Second, and most important, this beautiful piece of historical land should be developed to celebrate its agrarian history, and provide learning opportunities and enjoyment for all members of the community, not just soccer parents. For example, Community or Demonstration gardens on this site could enable both students and adults to learn or even participate in the "Grow it, Eat it" learning experience. I am a Master Gardener who engages in many educational programs for students. I never cease to be amazed how many children have no idea what farm products are in the food they are eating, what those products look like, or how they grow in the farmer's field.

11/15/2010 Fields email

I live in MerryHill on Stuart Robeson Drive, Mclean across from the Salona property. I am very much against the proposed athletic fields and would like to have a park and or horse trails instead. I would also like to see trees on 123.

11/15/2010 Fields email

I am writing to you concerning the The Salona Park Draft Master Plan in advance of the public meeting of the Fairfax County Park Authority this Wednesday evening. As a non-county resident who hasn't been privy to the local paper's media attention and coverage of this during the past year, I have only recently become aware of the proposed future uses for this property and the issues with the process by which these future plans have been developed. Nevertheless, I think my perspective on the future uses of this property are valid and that my concerns should be given as much credence as that of any Fairfax county resident. After 17 years as a parent of children at the Potomac School in McLean, I have spent countless hours traveling up and down Rte. 123 past the site in question. Since it is so close to Potomac School and adjacent to one of Potomac's shuttle bus pick up sites where I often drove my child, I have a very real feeling for the area in question.

I am terribly concerned about the present idea of building sports fields and a 100 car parking lot among other things on the site of this beautiful, historic meadow. These kinds of recreational facilities are currently available all over the county including locations close to this site, and while those who will use these proposed fields will always desire additional sites for their activities, it is a real travesty to consider transforming something with so much inherent aesthetic value into a fungible commodity. There are almost no remaining undeveloped open spaces in the county and certainly few, if any, that can be seen out a car window while driving down a major thoroughfare. What a breadth of fresh air it provides compared to the built environment and suburban sprawl that encroaches more and more each year upon tiny downtown McLean. The Salona property affords the county so many opportunities more in keeping with the existing natural state of the site. Beyond purely preserving the site for its historic significance, offering plots as community gardens would be a wonderful and fitting tribute to Salona's agrarian heritage. All over the country (Michelle Obama acknowledges this movement with her White House gardens and school group tours), plans to erect community gardens are taking shape because of their positive effect on land use, good nutrition, community values, and the connection between farm, field and table that is increasing lost on our children's generation. As a Master Gardener in Montgomery County Maryland, I believe Fairfax County should be giving serious consideration to this kind of gentle land use and environmental stewardship for the Salona property.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/15/2010 Garden Park email

I am a resident of 1209 Stuart Robeson Drive and we would like to see the Salona property as a Garden Conservatory Park, instead of two ball playing fields. The Garden Park would be more consistent and environmentally friendly to the McLean Village's character. It will also dignify our town and honor the Salona legacy and tradition attracting nature loving people from the McLean area. We also would like beautiful and lush trees along 123 and a 35 mile an hour speed limit.

11/15/2010 Garden Park email

I am a resident of 1231 Stuart Robeson Drive and would urge the board to consider utilizing the Salona property as a Garden Conservatory Park, which would blend well with the surrounding community, rather than the ball fields that are under consideration.

11/15/2010 Process email

I am writing to protest the "Fast Track" of the "Salona Master Plan." It has not followed the Park Authority's own published process (see Fairfax County Park Authority website) for development of such properties. I am writing as a concerned and active McLean resident to insist:

1. Include the community in the dialogue in consideration of the Salona Master Plan. So far there has been one public meeting at which the Park Authority presented their plan. Instead, follow your own published process by starting with a series of meetings with the McLean community to solicit public views on appropriate uses and design of this rare and beautiful historical property. Since we have been told there is no money available to fund the development yet, what is the hurry?

11/15/2010 Process email

I see in the McLean Connection that there is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 17 November to gather input on the Salona Park Master Plan draft. To the best of my knowledge, this is only the second meeting scheduled and it again comes at a very inopportune time for the residents of Fairfax County. The first, scheduled the eve of the huge snow in February was also not a good time for many of us. I am somewhat surprised that we have progressed to final public comments ending on December 20th. You are giving the Public a month, from Thanksgiving to Christmas to focus on something this important when our attention is clearly elsewhere? Does not the Park Authority website say that there will be minimally three meetings for Public discussion? Have there been task forces and workshops to educate the Public as to the best use of the land or at least the options? If so, I apologize...I missed them. Will the results be discussed on Wednesday?

I guess I do not understand the rush. The space on Route 123 is so important to the future of McLean. Why are we rushing to make a decision without proper research and input? I plan to attend the meeting Wednesday night and am in hopes that these issues will be addressed.

11/15/2010 Process email

Let's not be in haste to finalize the Salona plan for development of these rare and valuable land and water resources at the fingertips of all McLean residents. Slow down this process to allow community engagement and careful consideration of the pros and cons from all parties involved.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/15/2010 Traffic email

The ball fields would not only necessitate a large parking lot but would add to the already congested traffic problems on Rt 123, which necessitate protracted waits to enter and exit Stuart Robeson Drive now. I am also concerned about the property value of my home, which now overlooks the Salona fields, and if instead my home would overlook a couple of ball fields I'm sure that the view from my living room would be a serious deterrent to a prospective home buyer. Thank you for your consideration.

11/15/2010 Traffic email

I would also like to see a reduced speed limit of 35mph from the present 45mph (on 123).

11/15/2010 Traffic email

We also would like beautiful and lush trees along 123 and a 35 mile an hour speed limit.

11/16/2010 Cultural / Natural email

I wanted to show my support for the educational value of developing a property such as Salona for use to educate the public on the natural and historical treasures of our area. I work extensively with Fairfax County Public Schools developing schoolyard wildlife habitat and incorporating the use of the habitat into the curriculum K-12. The more outdoor spaces we can provide for our children and families to experience nature and wild habitat and all the creatures the native habitat supports, the better we can support the work of the schools and prepare our children for a future in a growing green economy.

11/16/2010 Dog Park email

My family lived in McLean in the Chesterbrook area since 1972. If I want to let my dog play off leash I have to go up to Baneker or to Madison in Arlington, where I frequently run into old friends from McLean. Especially at Madison, the dog people take such pride in the privilege that they self-police on waste pick-up, barking and aggressive animals, and they work very hard to maintain the facility. In the process, they have become a wonderful little community. McLean is so dog-friendly, it has always seemed odd that we don't have a nice dog park of our own on a few acres. The proposed dog park in Salona is a perfect place for dogs and their humans to congregate in a safe and lovely setting year round. It could be a model dog park and bring some patronage to the neighboring Salona Village shops.

11/16/2010 Fields email

More importantly, the plan with incorporated soccer fields and parking lots is a poor reflection of the uniquely important part this particular land played in our national and local history. I appreciate your taking whatever actions you can to open the public input process which I believe will result in a final use plan better suited to the land itself and the preservation and highlighting of The Dranesville District and Fairfax County's important role in American history.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/16/2010 Process parksweb

The plan should not be phrased as if Fairfax County will ask the Tysons developers if maybe, out of the goodness of their hearts, might they perhaps help deal with the aftermath of the mega-highrise living they stand to make millions on. On page 13, the last item that is proposed to address just that is to "encourage" the developers to do what they should be MADE TO DO for overbuilding in relation to our schools, roads, communities, and environment. It is disgusting that the elected officials are either so deeply funded by pro-development interests or too frightened to take a principled stand. Or to bring this debate into the public arena --- Instead, there was considerable sneakiness and failure to follow public posting process surrounding the plan to convert the historic Salona property into pavement and soccer fields. Hey -- officials --- that plan supposedly HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED YET -- but the plan already phrases it as a given ... and as the top significant thing that will be done to mitigate the effects of Tysons development. Thus, the developers get the Tysons \$\$ proceeds and we get to permanently alter the largest remaining meadow in Fairfax County, put a blemish on an historic site, and fail to follow the stewardship goals of PRESERVING AND PROTECTING history and the environment ... all while ignoring what appears to be the NUMBER ONE issue in recreation ... that people want unique and adult things to do at parks, not just more soccer fields. This is crazy, in my view, but people can differ in what they would prefer for the property. But a plan that assumes a given outcome (accompanied by a lack of notice and comment on the Salona master plan) is not any sort of appropriate process for such a momentous decision. Tell us the truth in your plans. And follow your own rules. I am submitting a FOIA request with the hope of casting some sunshine (as is permitted by law) on the flawed process ... But And instead, You have overlooked that destruction of Salona will cost more in open space and history than finding an alternative site for 2 soccer fields and some parking. You have overlooked that the public, including the McLean Citizens Association and the McLean Chamber of Commerce, take issue with the pretenses surrounding a process that assumes a given (and very wrong) outcome. And someone needs to stand up to the developers.

11/17/2010 Dog Park Phone call

She wanted to mention that we need to be very careful about the location for the dog park. She's not against the dog park, but having seen what happened on Old Glebe Road in Arlington pretty near Walker Chapel down the road from that they placed a dog park on a beautiful shady grassy area. Eventually and you can't help this it became mud, it was terrible. It was just all mud. The stench was awful, they did a good job about placing a receptacle with plastic bags and all that, but she guess' dog poop just smells. So you need to be very careful where you put it and the barking dogs. Eventually this dog park disappeared and it is now grass with the trees and it's just a quiet place. She doesn't know what the solution to that is but we just need to be careful where we place it so it's not going to disturb people.

11/17/2010 Natural email

My personal feeling is that the land should not be soccer fields. We have lots of fields and I understand they are enthusiastically used by many, many Fairfax kids. This is important, I know. But, what is also important is to provide our community with open space, that can be used in a more passive and contemplative fashion.

Let's provide our children with a nice place to plop down and read a book. A place to chase butterflies with a net. A place to take water samples for Earth Science class. To picnic. To play pick up games rather than the cut throat and stratified soccer league stuff. Let's provide a place for families to picnic and to jog, watch a cloud of fog lift as the day goes on. That sort of thing. From what I understand, the era of helicopter parenting is coming to an end (phew) and I am excited that the new trend may be to let our kids have time to wander, have free time, structure their own meaningful activities.

11/17/2010 Process email

Please know that I support the idea that the Park Authority hold out a while on final decisions regarding the scope and use of of this park.

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11/17/2010 Process parksweb

I respectfully write on behalf of The Potomac School to urgently request that you:

- stop the current timeline for the Salona master planning process so a legitimate community dialogue can occur;
- Ensure that the Park Authority follow its own published process by conducting a “Public Planning Workshop,” or preferably a series of public meetings, with the McLean community to solicit public views on appropriate uses and design;
- Conduct a comprehensive wildlife inventory of the property;
- Ensure that the findings and recommendations of the July 2008 “Cultural Landscape Report” are reflected in the final recommended Master Plan for Salona.

I request action on the bulleted items above because I feel the manner in which the Fairfax County Parks Authority (FCPA) has conducted the current process is: 1) not consistent with their own public participation process as published on the “Park Planning and Development webpage”; 2) not consistent with the spirit of the Open Space/Historic Preservation Easements Program given that Salona is a listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites; 3) not consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) submitted by John Milner Associates, Inc. A firm hired by the FCPA; and 4) not consistent with the spirit of its own charter which states as co-equal mission (1) preservation and stewardship of the natural resources entrusted to it and (2) development of facilities such as playgrounds and ball fields within park properties for the use of surrounding citizens. I look forward to joining and engaging in the proper public participation process to whatever resolution may be reached by the involved public and FPCA.

11/17/2010 Trails email

To make that happen, we need pedestrian access to the park along both sides of 123 with a great cross walk at Buchanan. We need our neighbors across the street along Kurtz road to be able to take strollers, roller blades and sneakers and safely access your property. Thank you so much.

11/18/2010 Cricket email

The surrounding jurisdictions of Loudon and Prince William have 3 cricket fields. Fairfax has one. There is a growing demand for cricket fields. Please incorporate in master plan.

11/18/2010 Dog Park email

I have been a resident of McLean for many years. So many other communities have dog parks, but not McLean. I think it is long over due for the residents of McLean to have a place where their dogs and their owners can socialize. Salona would be the perfect place.

11/18/2010 Dog Park email

I have been a resident of McLean for many years. So many other communities have dog parks, but not McLean. I think it is long over due for the residents of McLean to have a place where their dogs and their owners can socialize. Salona would be the perfect place.

11/18/2010 Dog Park email

Please put a dog park in Salon

11/18/2010 Dog Park email

I would like to vote YES to a dog park in McLean at Salona. There are none conveniently close to McLean, and as a long time resident of McLean and dog owner, I would love to have a clean, healthy, fenced in play area for dogs. I live in a condo, so I'd be grateful to have a place where my dogs can run and stretch their legs and socialize at the same time. I'm in full support.

11/18/2010 Dog Park email

Please put a dog park in Salona plan. Our community would be greatly enhanced by a park families and their pets can use. Now they must travel 40 minutes, round trip to Reston or Arlington. Thank you.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/19/2010 Process email

Thank you for the excellent Salona Park meeting last night.

It was very well run, educational, and collaborative.

I stayed until the very end...and listened to the Cricket player express his thoughts. The beauty of living in America...everyone is entitled to an opinion and a time slot to express those opinions!!!

I left the meeting hoping for the following:

a) a continuation of the study period so that the final product is worthy of the historical space so generously granted by the DuVals.

b) workshops that include and encompass the amazing amount of talent interested in this project, many of whom spoke last night. We heard from environmentalists, green experts, builders, attorneys, financiers, neighbors, soccer moms, politicians, dog lovers, civil servants and so many others. It appears that many are very willing to give of their time and expertise to make this a true "Mount Vernon of McLean".

c) another public meeting once the workshops have been concluded but prior to the vote on the Master Plan. This would be to inform the Public of the recommendations of the workshops.

Again, thank you for your willingness to listen.

11/19/2010 Process email

After the meeting held at Franklin Sherman School on Thursday evening, November 17, 2010, I have even further concerns regarding the plans for the Salona property and its development.

As I stated at that meeting, in general, it's my belief that not all land must be developed in order to be useful and I'd personally prefer that this land remain as is – undeveloped. But what I was told at that meeting was that the land was purchased with the proviso that [at least] two rectangular active sports fields be put in. I also heard many – most – of the people speaking, objecting to this idea! I don't understand why the meeting was held to get public opinion if the only choices were not what they prefer to be done with the land, but only which of two layouts of the soccer fields they prefer. (And even that seemed to have been determined already.)

11/19/2010 Traffic email

We would also like to see trees planted along Rt 123 and a 35 mph speed limit in the area. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

11/19/2010 Trails email

However, my concern is much more personal. When the park is finally developed, I suspect the hiking trails may be the earliest part developed – they'll be the least expensive and quickest to install. My request is one simple change to the park's "conceptual" hiking trails. As currently shown in the "Conceptual" Master Plan, there is a small "tail" at the farthest point of the parkland on which hikers would have to turn around and return by the same trail. We are requesting that this part of the trail be omitted.

I don't know how much this "tail" means to the overall plan, but I do know that it would mean a lot to us. The reason is that that part of the trail runs behind our property – Topeka Road – and we have a swimming pool – in the woods – behind our house, very close to the park boundary. When we bought our house, this wasn't a problem; we were told then it would never be developed. Putting a nature trail there now would severely affect our privacy and sense of security. We don't feel leaving this part of the trail out of the plan would negatively impact the park, but it would certainly have a negative impact on our property. We would very much appreciate your rethinking at least this small part of the trail. If you haven't personally walked this proposed trail already, please do so; look over at our pool and ask yourself, "Would I feel comfortable out there alone in a swimsuit with strangers hiking that close by?" What I read and hear right now, are "conceptual" and "no current funding." What I see right now are men in the woods surveying and little red flags, marking the planned trail. Please reconsider.

11/19/2010 Trails email

We want to particularly express disappointment the southern end of the trail ends at the border of the Smoot property and will tempt people to continue walking across the Smoot's and then ours on their way to Pimmit Run. When County staff asked us if we would agree to a trail easement across our property, we responded clearly we would not so agree.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/21/2010 Fields email

I write to share my deep reservations about the proposed park development on the historic Salona property. Although I believe the proposed plan is well intended to help accommodate the recreational needs of our community, the plan is careless in its disregard for Salona as a historic site in McLean. The Salona land represents one of the last significant undeveloped sites in downtown McLean. While the goal of allowing the public greater access to the Salona park land is commendable, the current plan to divide the property into over-developed sports fields is not appropriate. A more appropriate use of the property would be walking/running trails, which would only minimally disrupt the current property. I am also concerned about the location and size proposed parking lot for the property that would ruin the view of the property from Dolley Madison (123).

I have long been disappointed by Fairfax County's recognition of its historic colonial, early American and Civil War-era sites. This latest plan for the development of the Salona property is indicative of the county's failure to appreciate our remaining historic assets. I strongly urge a redesigned park plan that preserves as much of the historic land as possible while allowing greater access for the public.

11/21/2010 Trails email

A more appropriate use of the property would be walking/running trails, which would only minimally disrupt the current property.

11/22/2010 Acquisition, Fields email

As I listened to all the people at the public hearing argue to keep the Salona land open and not build recreation facilities the thought occurred to me that the county should get its \$16 million back, forget about a park and soccer fields there and go find playing field space somewhere else. Build another church or townhouse development there and that would be fine with me. I live across the street in Madison of McLean and our TH development works just fine. Why tie up \$16 million for something not wanted. Get the \$16 million back if the land cannot be used for its original intent.

11/22/2010 Fields email

Second, I personally believe (based on my thirty years in Mclean and coaching many local kids sports programs) that the Salona property should include one or two of the rectangular fields in the Master Plan. I recognize that many of the vocal local neighbors who attended the recent meeting are worried about that, however our kids need more outside recreational facilities. I believe the historic nature of the 40 plus acres can be largely preserved with a sports field or two.

11/22/2010 Playground email

Third, the popularity and use of nearby Clemyjontri Park and its wonderful equipment for disabled and non disabled kids is something that I hope you will consider. It could be as modest as including a few nice pieces of playground equipment on an all weather surface that accommodates wheel chairs. Thank you for your consideration.

11/22/2010 Trails email

I attended the information hearing last week at Franklin Sherman School regarding the Salona Master Plan

I would like to offer three comments and inputs:

First, as a member of Trinity United Methodist Church(across Buchanan Street from Salona) , I certainly hope that the County will require a trail or walking path paralleling Route 123 along the Salona property into Mclean. This should correspond to what our church was required by the County to provide and will finally allow people to actually use the path along 123 instead of walking or biking on 123 in an extremely unsafe manner.

11/23/2010 Cultural. Gardens email

I believe that. given the rich cultural history associated with the park and the residence, there is plenty opportunity to create a passive recreation park where people of all ages can enjoy. There could be interpretive centers, community gardens, sculpture gardens, where school age as well as age 50+ can enjoy.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/23/2010 Fields email

Only because the agreement calls for soccer fields doesn't necessarily mean that is what the community desires to have in the neighborhood. It certainly didn't sound that way at the November 17th public meeting.

11/23/2010 Natural email

The draft Salona Park Master Plan states that the wildlife survey has not yet been conducted. I am particularly interested in whether or not the meadow is still supporting any bobwhite quail. Even if this species is currently not present in the meadow, I suggest that bobwhite quail could be reintroduced to the meadow restoration area. Indeed, I would submit that this species and its habitat needs could serve as the primary driver of the management of the meadow restoration area. VDGIF is currently engaged in a quail recovery initiative--perhaps the county could collaborate with VDGIF in this effort. The bobwhite quail has all but disappeared from Fairfax county in one generation due to the residential development of small farm parcels and the disappearance of adequate meadow habitat. It would be wonderful if county residents could observe and hear this species once again. Thank you for your consideration.

For more on the Bobwhite quail in Virginia: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/quail/>

11/23/2010 Process email

I am utterly disappointed at the lack of communication with regards to the draft master plan. As a McLean resident, I didn't find out about the last public meeting until my friend send me the notice. It sounded like there is still plenty of time to get involved, and am happy to participate should there be a public charrette about the future of the park.

11/24/2010 Buildings email

I don't see the need for a building or lights at the park--the new D. Madison library or the Community Center (already being financed by our taxes) should be able to accomodate desired educational aspects; and there is the McLean Central Park...

11/24/2010 Cultural email

I live in the Salona Village, Brawner St., and agree with some comments made at the Nov. 17 meeting about the park plan, and would like to add some to the effect that the historic site be disturbed as little as possible. Anyway, the budget deficits will not, nor should, allow for grandiose unnecessary developments and their costly upkeep--to be paid with even more taxes:

11/24/2010 Dog Park email

--if a dog park is a majority wish, certainly not mine, then, please locate it next to the D. Madison Blvd/south of a new parking lot, so as to not disturb the rest of the park or the church area with dogs.

11/24/2010 Fields email

--athletic fields should not be developed at the site. Other locations are available for fields, if necessary, e.g. still at the F. Sherman School. At the school, some parking should be made available at the rear, at the street between the school grounds and the Exxon station (I made these comments to the School principal, they were totally disregarded, first: he said it was too early to plan for that, and then, that it was too late... It would ease congestion caused by school traffic on Brawner St., and allow for extra traffic on game days, even more so if another field is established there).

11/24/2010 Fields, Landscaping email

--plant carefully selected trees, but leaving most acres meadow style, as now.

11/24/2010 Garden Park email

I am a resident of (number omitted) Stuart Robeson Drive, McLean Virginia in McLean. We would like to see the Salona property as a Green Garden Park, which would be more consistent with the McLean Village's character.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/28/2010 Buildings, Interpretation email

Possible uses of the core activity area at Salona could include a small museum, which would tell the history of Salona, as well as other events that occurred in the McLean area. The museum could even offer a reconstruction of part of a Union Army winter camp like that located at Salona in 1861-62. A parking lot could be placed next to the museum, far from the portion of the property fronting Rt. 123, and obscured by trees and other vegetation. The museum could also serve as a focal point for living history demonstrations related to Salona history.

11/28/2010 Cultural email

I am writing in response to the Fairfax County Park Authority's solicitation of public comments on the July 22, 2010 draft Salona Park Master Plan ("Master Plan"). As a McLean resident, Civil War enthusiast, and avid supporter of historic preservation, I am particularly interested in how Fairfax County intends to develop Salona.

In a region where the developer's bulldozer has often destroyed lands of historic significance, the Salona conservation easement provides the county with a major opportunity to protect one of Fairfax's most treasured properties. However, with the easement comes the responsibility to ensure that Salona is developed in a manner that comports with its historic character.

Salona, which played a key role in the War of 1812 and the Civil War, should not become just another suburban residential park. Fortunately, many elements of the Master Plan appear appropriate for a site like Salona, and the county should be commended. For example, "interpretative features" would be installed across the park. These features would presumably educate the public on the history associated with Salona.

11/28/2010 Fields email

There are also plans to preserve and restore the meadow fronting Rt. 123 and to offer an agriculture/education area.

For all of the upsides, however, a few key elements of the Master Plan have the potential to undermine the historic nature of Salona. The front of the park would consist of two large athletic fields, as well as a 100-space parking lot, a dog park, and a playground/picnic area. These types of installations, although consistent with the easement, would detract from the historic nature of the property and defeat the goal of preserving one of the last open, rural spaces in suburban McLean. The county should be able to find alternative sites for such activities.

11/28/2010 Fields, Interpretation email

The agriculture/education area and the meadow preservation area could be expanded. These are only a few suggestions, but in any event, there are better ways to commemorate this historic property than through the installation of athletic fields, playgrounds, and dog parks.

Fairfax County has generally done an excellent job in preserving historic sites within the county's borders. I hope that the Park Authority stays faithful to its record when developing the Salona property.

11/29/2010 Natural, Interpretation email

Please add my name to that of many other people who attended and spoke about preserving the Salona property either in its natural state or as part of a nature/environmental/education center. I believe that this would be the best possible use of this property for our children and our community. Thank you.

11/30/2010 Acquisition phone call

The county should get more out of the site than just green space. If not, then give it back and get our money back. Should have passed on the offer to begin with. Now neighbors and DuVals get to look at empty fields and DuVals are \$16 million richer.

11/30/2010 Dog Park phone call

Requested that a dog park not be installed at Salona.

11/30/2010 Fields email

Sometimes it's okay to let meadowland remain relatively undeveloped. Not every flat piece of open land needs a soccer field on it.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

11/30/2010 Fields email

One of the telling comments -- really, the crux of the issue -- in the Draft Master Plan is on the first page of Chapter 6, Schematic Design:

"The introduction of active recreation facilities [soccer facilities] to the site as well as the preservation as private property combine to present a number of design issues and challenges for a site so rich in cultural and natural resources. One challenge is to locate the visitor contact and recreation area while preserving the historic and natural features of the site. A 50-foot buffer line from the property line as well as vehicular access and parking pose additional challenges to the location of the park and recreational facilities."

11/30/2010 Fields phone call

Requests no athletic fields at Salona.

11/30/2010 Funding email

Finally, real estate developers looking for offsets might do well to fund the turfing of existing playing fields so that they remain in rotation. Including FCPS playing fields in the total inventory might be helpful, too.

11/30/2010 Ice Skating phone call

Also suggested an Ice Skating rink as a possible site feature.

11/30/2010 Nature Center email

I have just reviewed the alternate plan for Salona Park as envisioned by A2 Design and supported by Green McLean, the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, and GreenSpur. (See http://web.me.com/ghassanabukurah/Salona_Park_Proposal/Project_Description.html) It is very impressive! The Salona Park Nature Center would be a real feather in the cap of Fairfax County Government and a great resource for the community and area schools.

In my opinion, Virginia's efforts at incubating sustainable technology businesses or incentivizing home and business owners to invest in such technologies leaves much to be desired. This Nature Center would be, among other things, an highly visible proof of concept that solar panels, passive heating, and passive cooling really works.

11/30/2010 Nature Center email

There are too many "challenges" in the Draft Master Plan. On the other hand, the Nature Center is full of opportunities. It has a very light and small footprint; it leaves more meadowland intact; it is educational; and, it is unique. Please adopt the Salona Park Nature Center Alternate Plan.

11/30/2010 Nature Center phone call

She would like a nature center at Salona Park.

11/30/2010 Traffic phone call

Buchanan Street needs a light on 123. This will be needed even more if ball fields are constructed at Salona.

12/1/2010 Dog Park phone call

Lives across the street from Salona and is a dog breeder. She does not think Salona is a good place for a dog park because it is too close to Dolley Madison Boulevard. Two of her dogs were killed by cars on Dolley Madison Boulevard near Salona.

12/1/2010 Fields email

No Playing Fields we have enough!
We do not have natural areas!

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/1/2010 Fields email

I note that 10 acres can be developed for recreational use, with 31 remaining for resource protection. One issue with this is that even the removal of 10 acres of land, creates habitat fragmentation and reduces the carrying capacity of the entire property. It would be heartbreaking to see even a piece of this rare patch of nature in McLean allocated for recreation.

12/1/2010 Natural / Cultural / Interpretatio email

I am writing to lend my support to dedicating Salona Park to environmental and cultural uses, rather than using even a portion of it for recreational sports. This is a beautiful piece of property which can be used in a number of ways: walking trails, cultural history research, and environmental studies. As the mother of a Thomas Jefferson High School graduate, I've seen the incredible environmental research done at the high school level. This park could provide similar opportunities for AP Environmental Science students at McLean and Langley. Moreover, with the recent STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) focus, I can envision Salona Park being a wonderful, accessible natural field lab.

12/1/2010 Natural Interpretation email

As an environmental educator, a certified Virginia Master Naturalist, and a science curriculum writer, I've lost count of the number of students I've taught who have experienced those "Aha" moments applying classroom knowledge to the real world. This property could provide so much more to our residents than another soccer game.

I hope that you'll consider preserving this property for this generation and the ones to come.

12/1/2010 Natural, interpretive email

Comments Regarding the Disposition of the Salona Park Property

Please retain the entire area referenced above under Park Authority control in perpetuity as a completely natural area, undisturbed except for educational and research purposes.

I am a small business owner (c. 17 years) in McLean and my business is located a very short distance from the property in question.

12/1/2010 Traffic phone call

Say traffic is very bad on 123, especially at rush hour, and drivers are very inconsiderate. Witnessed a fire truck trying to get out of Buchanan Street blowing its horn repeatedly, and the traffic would not stop to let the emergency vehicle out.

12/2/2010 Dog Park parkmail

I would really appreciate a dog park in Mclean as I live in a condo and would love a fenced in place to bring a dog. I do not currently have a dog, because of lack of fencing- as I love large dogs and walking is sometimes not enough. I also like the social aspect and community of the park.

12/2/2010 Fields email

The current draft Master Plan for Salona Park calls for turning a portion of the upper meadow of Salona's historic land into athletic fields, and for "accommodating" other possible uses. Athletic fields, by their very nature, inflict intense damage on natural areas, both in their establishment and by continued intensive use. As the mother of three boys, I recognize the extraordinary demand in the county for athletic fields. But in 2010, for the meadowland at Salona to even EXIST is extraordinary. To subdivide this parkland into a "mishmash" of different areas, would effectively subdivide it into mediocrity. We would lose the unique flavor of a priceless parcel appealing to a much broader constituency (both human and wild). The conservation easement may allow for the imposition of athletic fields, but doing so would negate decades of loving ownership, and, in my opinion, degrade the entire idea of a "conservation" park.

12/2/2010 Natural email

A complete and thorough wildlife inventory of the property needs to be conducted and the results made available to the Mclean community. This is one of the last sizeable open spaces in Mclean and should be protected and preserved, particularly as a portion of the meadows is designated wetland.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/2/2010 Natural / Cultural email

Crickets, beetles, ladybugs, bluebirds, red-winged blackbirds, toads, chipmunks, native grasses, dragonflies and wildflowers, rejoicing under an open sky . . . When was the last time any of us directly observed nature's interactions in a wide-open meadow? Mostly the opportunity is not even available in the Washington DC metro area. Expanses of meadow have disappeared under highways, parking lots, shopping centers and subdivisions and--dare I say it--athletic fields. We have little opportunity to experience the pleasures of nature's own prescription for wide-open spaces, or to observe a landscape in its undisturbed state, or to think about how common these human experiences were in the past. Only in the most limited and fleeting of ways do we experience the cultural and natural landscape of our forebears.

But now open space preserved by the DuVal family in very heart of our community, is available for a wider audience to treasure. The sheer size of this undeveloped space, and the historic nature of the house and surroundings, is in itself WHY it has immense and unique value and WHY its preservation—undisturbed as much as possible—would provide a unique resource to residents and visitors alike.

Bottom of Form

For the past five years or so, I have been working with various volunteer organizations restoring lands degraded by insensitive development and overwhelmed by the volume of demands we unthinkingly place on them to serve the ever growing need for human amenities. We reintroduce native grasses, reduce storm water runoff by planting and restoring riparian areas, work to clear invasive vines and plant native species necessary to the survival of wildlife in increasingly limited wildlife corridors. Much of this work is necessary to MITIGATE damage that occurred to the natural world before we were knowledgeable about the impacts of our development goals.

However now we have an opportunity to implement a plan for Salona Park taking into account our accumulated knowledge of the natural world and the impact of our decisions on it. We have an opportunity not only to preserve what exists but to establish a nature center to ENHANCE the experience of nature and open space that was once common and to reflect on our history and our human condition.

12/2/2010 Process email

I am adding my voice to call on the FCPA to slow the process on the Salona Master plan to allow legitimate community dialogue about the most appropriate use of this extraordinary property, and the unique opportunity to best preserve its rural setting for the community it is meant to serve.

After attending the meeting on November 17th, at which no citizen spoke in favor of the current plan, it was clear that the soccer fields and paved parking lot are considered environmentally intrusive and historically insensitive. This property has national significance as well as local considerations and the public park should be carefully planned to enhance its value to future generations.

12/2/2010 Process email

The traffic problems, the water run-off, the trash, the impact on the flora and fauna, and the unattractive entry to Mclean are all issues which continue to need to be addressed. More soccer fields on which the public cannot walk are unnecessary as well as undesirable.

A range of alternatives, and the time for the community to discuss them, are necessary.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/3/2010 Fields, Natural email

As a citizen of McLean, and parent of two kids at Chesterbrook School, I would like to add my "vote" to the public comments to the Park Authority planning for Salona for natural, historical, and educational activities rather than athletic fields.

In short, according to the Sun Gazette, the current plan calls for 2 athletic fields and a dog park. From talking with many of my McLean neighbors in Franklin Park, there is a common agreement that the McLean area is very short on parklands with natural settings. Consequently, rather than yet more athletic fields, the county would be better served by using this one-time project to provide residents with a site to expand the opportunities for nature, history, or educational activities. In addition, I am very involved in the Chesterbrook PTA and could imagine our 400+ kids taking field trips to Salona as could many of the Fairfax County schools within a 30 minute radius.

I would be glad to provide additional information, or encourage my neighbors to similarly provide their comments, if you would like more feedback on not using the historic Salona property for yet more athletic fields.

12/6/2010 Fields email

We don't need more playing fields in a location like that.
Thank you for reading this. I hope you will consider my views.

12/6/2010 Fields, Natural / Cultural email

I was unable to attend the public comment session a couple of weeks ago, but did want to let you know that I feel strongly that Salona should be kept in as untouched a state as possible—no parking lots, no playing fields, etc. It should be available to the public for such things as enjoying the natural beauty and history of the area.

12/6/2010 Natural email

This is a citizen response concerning the plan for the development of the Salona property. I am advocating for preserving the natural state of the Salona property to protect the habitat for the flora and fauna and to protect the watershed that impacts the waterways and eventually the Chesapeake Bay.

I have resided in Fairfax County for about 60 years and in the Salona Village neighborhood for 16 years. I was very happy when the county and the DuVals agreed upon the perpetual conservation easement for the property.

I am writing to testify to the need to preserve land in its natural state in this part of the county for two reasons 1) to protect the wildlife habitat and 2) to protect the watershed. Salona Village is an old residential neighborhood, any impact on flora and fauna occurred over 50 years ago and there has been little change since then within the neighborhood boundaries. Outside of the neighborhood, there has been a lot of development. Our neighborhood borders the Salona property and part of the Pimmit watershed lands and wildlife in the area continues to be displaced, as is shown by the regular sighting of the following creatures on our neighborhood streets and properties:

Deer – doe, fawns, and bucks are not uncommon to be seen and whenever I am in my backyard, their evidence is abundant, both from the browsing of my plants as well as the scat they leave behind.

Coyote – I have seen coyote traveling through the neighborhood numerous times, silent and focused.

Fox – I always descend my drive slowly in the dark, as a fox skittering across is not unusual.

Rabbit – There have been times when I noticed a rabbit in almost every yard along Kurtz of an evening. These larger animals would not be in the residential area if their habitat had not been encroached upon. I do not live toward the back of the neighborhood, where access to the woods is direct, I live just two blocks from Franklin Sherman and I see and have all these animals on my property.

We also have a multitude of smaller animals such as squirrels, moles, chipmunks, field mice, etc. I do also notice that we do not see the same variety of birds as we did when we came here 16 years ago.

At that time, piliated woodpeckers were common, now they are rare.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, I look forward to learning about a revised plan for the property that is in line with the majority of county residents.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/6/2010 Natural email

I would like to offer our positive votes yes to save Salona for the natural uses of the community. We came to McLean in 1961 when much of the town, indeed the County, were as treasured rural lands as is Salona today. Through the ensuing fifty years, progress has been enormous and generally civically healthy. It would be a huge gift to future generations, however, to save Salona for history's sake and as a tribute also to Clive DuVal and his well-documented service to Virginia.

Thank you for considering the plan to save this landmark, Salona.

12/6/2010 Traffic email

Thank you Don. I appreciate the information. It doesn't surprise me that a signal may not be warranted now, albeit that is a dangerous intersection during rush hour.

However, as the Fairfax County Park Authority pursues finalization of the master plan for the park that will be located at that intersection, what would be the plan of action to assess a signal light or other traffic safety measures should recreation fields be built at that site? I strongly feel that if recreation fields are built at Salona Park, a traffic signal or some other solution would be needed. What is the process of assessing this?

12/6/2010 Trails, Garden email

Perhaps walkways or butterfly garden-type attractions might be added, but basically, it's an important piece of history and unique to McLean. Its use should reflect that and we should preserve it.

12/7/2010 Chestnuts email

Planning for Salona Park has just recently come out of dormancy and is in the early stage of germination (I think). The alternate plan for Salona Park (see http://web.me.com/g Hassanabukurah/Salona_Park_Proposal/Project_Description.html) includes a section for a Research Garden. Right now Fairfax County Parks & Recreation are still taking public comments about the Salona Park plan (see <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/salona.htm>). The park site is 41 acres of meadowland divided into thirds by two lines of existing hedgerow. About how much area would a breeding orchard need?

While it is too soon to commit to anything, I'm sure that, given other competing interests, we could generate some genuine support for advancing the cause of the Chestnut Tree here in McLean.

12/8/2010 Dog Park email

My parents and I moved to Chesterfield Avenue in McLean in 1972 when I was a teenager, and I've lived here ever since. Through the years, my brother and I have had some wonderful dogs. We played in the backyard, but never had anywhere to let them run and socialize close by, because there was no dog park. This is pretty surprising, considering how dog-oriented McLean is.

For the past 9 years now I have had to go to Arlington (Madison) or up to East Falls Church (Banneker), Clarendon or Shirlington to exercise and socialize my dog, so I was delighted to hear that an acre or two of Salona might be made into a dog park. What a first rate idea! McLean really needs this, and if Madison is a model--water sources, anchored tables and benches, clean surfaces, intelligent landscaping, and self-managed by conscience pet owners--it would really be an asset to the neighborhood.

It would also be a boon to local businesses. Frequently, after an hour of play, Madison dog people gather at the Lee Heights coffee shops and restaurants, or go to Harrison Street for the restaurants, pet stores and Harris Teeter. The Salona Village shops and restaurants could benefit from some new patrons, couldn't it?

Please consider it.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/15/2010 Natural / Cultural / Interpretatio email

Therefore, my opinion is: Preserve the whole tract as the original meadow and wildlife/birded forest it is (despite the deer who dine on my hostas), leaving open the possibility and hope that the whole area may at some future time be an historical destination and highlight of McLean. Very few communities can point to such a preservation in their center, and I am most grateful Clive and Susan's children didn't succumb to the financial temptation of filling the area with McMansions.

The Comment Meeting was most helpful and I thank you for bringing it to Salona.

12/15/2010 Traffic email

While my home is on the back side of the DuVal property, I also recognize the traffic concerns people in the Buchanan Street area have -- even now, access to Dolley Madison Boulevard is often extremely difficult - and not likely to be easily improved.

12/16/2010 Easement email

These comments were presented on November 17th at the Master Planning meeting in McLean.

Please include these as comments submitted on the future of Salona.

I am a Realtor and my office is located at (number omitted) Dolley Madison Boulevard. I am also the Chair of the Fairfax County Restoration Project. But my comments tonight are for myself. I will be brief. I urge the Fairfax County Park Authority to consider alternatives that preserve the integrity of Salona. In a County that is almost completely developed for those of you who are entrusted with this decision the importance of this opportunity is significant.

This last bit of land in McLean with such rich historical significance deserves vigorous engagement by both the public and the decision makers who work in the public interest. So please consider this commitment before rushing through a vision that does not include the citizens who ultimately paid for it. While the funds used to purchase the Park Authority easement were significant by anyone's standards, they were far below market value. And, while I've heard claims that this easement was purchased with "Park Authority" money, I respectfully remind the Park Authority, this easement was paid for with taxpayer money.

12/16/2010 Fields, Nature Center Voice Mail

Against fields and parking, leave as is or nature center. (Summary)

12/16/2010 Process email

Therefore, it is your responsibility and duty to act as trustees of the public and ensure citizen engagement is encouraged, welcomed, respected and heard.

I support the McLean Citizens Association (MCA) calls for an open, public planning process that permits opportunities to develop and fairly consider the ideas referenced in the "alternative and interim uses" language of the Draft Master Plan, to ensure the unique historic, cultural and natural resource values of the Salona property are protected; and that the FCPA work with MCA and the Dranesville District Supervisor's office to schedule public workshops to allow community input into the development of the listed alternative uses and other compatible alternative uses to ensure that the master plan for Salona reflects the McLean community's views as to the appropriate uses for this unique property.

12/17/2010 Dog Park email

WE DO NEED A DOG PARK THOUGH. Please round out the interests and needs of residents here so the many families who own dogs don't have to travel 40 minutes round trip just to get to a dog park.

Thank you!

12/17/2010 Dog Park Phone Call

Dog Park does not fit within language of easement. (Summary)

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Fields email

Please be advised that as a McLean resident, and a parent of one current and one former McLean Youth Soccer player, I completely support the efforts to develop quality fields in McLean and in Fairfax County. Please make sure that the two rectangular sports fields providing for in the DuVal plan are preserved as the Salona project is planned. My older daughter's team practiced at Salona when she was younger, and it is a great space and a great location.

Soccer is an amazing sport -- and one of the most inclusive sports around. Kids of all ages and athletic abilities can play at a variety of levels, and have a great time doing so. As well, girls and boys enjoy it in equal numbers, unlike sports like football and baseball, as an example. The rectangular fields are beautiful, unlike stadiums, and are great for off-hours access to walkers, frisbee dogs, etc etc etc. Finally, soccer players like Mia Hamm and Landon Donovan are excellent role models for our children. To keep up with the explosive growth this wonderful sport is experiencing in America, and in Fairfax County, and in McLean, we must continue to look for ways to increase the playing space. The Park Authority has been very responsive to the needs of the soccer community -- please keep up the good work!

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I very much support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean. We have a very difficult time finding open space where children can get together and play sports and these fields will help put a dent in this problem and make McLean a better place to live.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Fields email

Please Do Not Build Playing Fields At Salona Park. The inventory of playing fields is sufficient if the FCPS fields are included. MYS, P&R, and Tysons developers need to spend their money turfing existing playing fields -- whether they are on P&R property or FCPS property. This will greatly relieve any pressure from future population growth.

McLean Youth Soccer is a powerful lobby that is embarking on a major campaign to persuade you that they are the only voices to which attention should be paid. Meadowland for the sake of meadowland is unheard of in this part of the county where soccer reigns supreme. An undeveloped piece of flat, open land is too difficult for developers to resist.

Incidentally, I'm not anti-soccer fields; I just want to see fields at public and private schools added to the total inventory of fields that MYS and developers can improve, help maintain, and play on.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean. Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

12/17/2010 Fields email

Please do NOT put playing fields in Salona Village. McLean has enough!!
By the way, my two children play soccer and I still feel this way.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer and a youth soccer referee, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean. In particular I feel that the following points strongly support my point of view...
Athletic fields are needed to keep up with the growth of our community.
Our children need more public places to play and learn sports, exercise and learn social skills.
Our youth is generally unhealthy and needs to exercise more.
Our children do not have places to play near their homes as houses are now closer, more townhouse communities have been constructed and security is a concern of all our citizens so even if there are some suitable locations to play, parents are unwilling to allow their small children to go outside and play without adult supervision.
Kids are spending more time in front of screens and need time with their peers to learn more social skills.
Kids are learning how to compete honestly, learn fairness and sportsmanship from playing sports.
With the growth of Tyson's Corner, even more fields will be needed.
Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Fields email

I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member and 30 year recreation coach in McLean Youth Soccer, I have seen the growth and the benefits of youth participation which has been enabled by the development of suitable athletic fields. I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

There are very limited possibilities that remain for the development of athletic fields in our community and I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would foreclose a unique opportunity and would represent a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Fields email

My son, Andrew, and I enthusiastically support all efforts to develop the two athletic fields that are part of the Salona Project in Fairfax County. Andrew and I live in Springfield, VA, but due to the high quality of training provided by McLean Youth Soccer (MYS) my son recently switched soccer clubs. With his old soccer team, there were many more playing fields available--both indoor and outdoor--providing much greater opportunities for training and giving his old team a greater advantage. All kids in Fairfax County should have comparable opportunities to practice regardless of the youth soccer organization they belong.

Preserving the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project will enhance outdoor recreational activities for all citizens of McLean. Strong recreational and competitive sports' programs, for both youths and adults, are noticeable draws for new families moving to Fairfax County. And, the more competitive and successful youth programs are, the more fields needed.

As I'm sure you know, McLean Youth Soccer was one of five soccer clubs (along with clubs from TX, MO, NJ, and CA) recently accepted among 250 applicants to the US Soccer Development Academy League. This high honor will certainly attract the best of the best soccer players in Fairfax County to McLean. Without enough adequate fields to train, McLean may have a difficult time sustaining this prestigious honor.

Eliminating these fields from the development plan would be a loss for all McLean citizens, but especially for the children who love team sports and are desperately seeking places to play and practice. There is much to gain for the entire community by developing these two fields. My son sees these fields not only as a place to play, but a place to make his soccer dreams come true. Fairfax County has a tremendous opportunity to inspire the dreams of many young folks.

Thank you for considering Andrew's and my concerns.

12/17/2010 Fields email

We need good soccer fields for the kids. Many are in very sad shape and I cringe when I see kids playing on them.

Thank-you for supporting the soccer field initiative

12/17/2010 Fields email

Can you please support use sports. We need more support from parks and recreation. We do not have enough fields for youth and adults in Fairfax county.

This should be a priority of Parks and Rec.

12/17/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

As a family, we've had the opportunity to live in many parts of the world, and one of the reasons we chose to live in McLean/Fairfax County was because of the facilities provided for families and children who are actively pursuing sports and an 'active lifestyle'. At a time when it is recognized that a sedentary lifestyle is detrimental to health and leads to all kinds of problems and burdens, it is confounding that the development of these fields is even up for question.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children, but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010

Fields

web

Recently, the Fairfax County Park Authority held public meetings to solicit opinions on how to proceed with development of the Salona Project in McLean. Many comments were made opposing the development of the two athletic fields originally planned for the site.

We are asking all MYS members who support our commitment to increase the access of our children to quality athletic fields, to tell the Park Authority how they feel and let them see that the opposition is in the minority.

You can email Park Authority Project Manager Andy Galusha at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or call him at 703-324-8755. At the bottom of this message is a form letter that you can cut & paste into an email if you wish. If you do email, please send a copy of your note to buildfields@mcleansoccer.org, so that we can also share your comments with Dranesville Supervisor John Foust.

THE DEADLINE FOR OUR COMMENTS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 20th.

As you communicate with the Park Authority, please be sure to remind them of several key reasons that MYS and its members continue to support positive field development efforts throughout McLean and Fairfax County:

Athletic fields are needed to keep up with the growth of our community.

Our children need more public places to play and learn sports, exercise and learn social skills.

Our youth is generally unhealthy and needs to exercise more.

Our children do not have places to play near their homes as houses are now closer, more townhouse communities have been constructed and security is a concern of all our citizens so even if there are some suitable locations to play, parents are unwilling to allow their small children to go outside and play without adult supervision.

Kids are spending more time in front of screens and need time with their peers to learn more social skills.

Kids are learning how to compete honestly, learn fairness and sportsmanship from playing sports.

With the growth of Tyson's Corner, even more fields will be needed.

Thank you for taking time to comment to the County on this important matter.

SAMPLE LETTER:

December 17, 2010

Mr. Andy Galusha

Project Manager

Fairfax County Park Authority

SUBJ: Athletic Fields at Salona

Dear Mr. Galusha:

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Fields/Traffic email

I wanted to let you know that I do not support efforts to develop athletic fields as part of the Salona Project. Given the lack of open green space in McLean and the significant historical value of the Salona property, the development of this area into rectangular sports fields would destroy the integrity of the property. Additionally, the increase in traffic in an already congested area of McLean would be a burden to all in the community. I believe that eliminating these fields from the development plan would be a tremendous benefit to the community as a whole, and specifically to the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

I respectfully request that you ensure the preservation of this property as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/17/2010 Natural email

Due to the historic nature of this parcel, I suggest you leave it as open space, with minimal construction of recreational facilities.

12/17/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

You can expect to see about seven bullet points from the MYS supporters. I have ten bullet points in favor of environmental education (EE) taken from the National Environmental Education Foundation website at http://www.eeweek.org/resources/EE_benefits:

1. Studying EE Creates Enthusiastic Students and Innovative Teacher-Leaders
2. EE Helps Build Critical Thinking and Relationship Skills
3. EE Instructional Strategies Help Foster Leadership Qualities
4. EE Makes Other School Subjects Rich and Relevant
5. EE Teaches Students to be Real-World Problem-Solvers
6. EE Helps Students Become Self-Directed Learners
7. EE Gets Apathetic Students Excited About Learning
8. EE Is a Perfect Match for Community Service Learning Requirements
9. EE Offers All Students Equal Chances for Academic Success
10. Access to Nature and Outdoor Play Offer a Host of Health Benefits

The two attachments provide details for the above assertions.

I've said it before: There is no room on the 41 acres for two sports fields, nature trails, cultural displays, etc without disrupting the Pimmit Run RPA and destroying the viewshed. As stated in the Salona Cultural Landscape Report first page of Chapter 6, Schematic Design:

"The introduction of active recreation facilities [soccer facilities] to the site as well as the preservation as private property combine to present a number of design issues and challenges for a site so rich in cultural and natural resources. One challenge is to locate the visitor contact and recreation area while preserving the historic and natural features of the site. A 50-foot buffer line from the property line as well as vehicular access and parking pose additional challenges to the location of the park and recreational facilities."

Too Many Challenges!

Ghassan Abukurah's plan for Salona Park

(http://web.me.com/ghassanabukurah/Salona_Park_Proposal/Project_Description.html) is an excellent alternative to the Draft Plan. The opportunity to sponsor and build the only Net Zero Energy Building (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zero-energy_building) in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, or Delaware should be an attractive proposition for the Parks & Recreation Department and the Board of Supervisors. Imagine the influx of enviro-tourists and school groups who come to Fairfax County to see such a building.

12/17/2010 Nature email

Finally, to destroy a beautiful natural habitat such as Salona would be a real disappointment. Thank you for your consideration,

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/17/2010 Process email

We have the expertise in our community to explore a more suitable vision for Salona. I call on the Park Authority Board to assure us that no final vote will take place on the Salona Park Master Plan until you have met with and received meaningful input from a variety of residents and organizations in McLean, as your own public process requires. Any number of talented and knowledgeable residents would be pleased to participate in a task force to gather the information and preferences of our community.

We can do this only once. We have to do it right.

Thank you.

12/17/2010 Traffic email

Furthermore, placing a soccer field in that location would create a traffic nightmare in an already too congested area.

12/18/2010 Easement email

There were two main elements of the plan: we agreed to a conservation easement that would protect 41 acres and we provided Fairfax County with a right to purchase the property if and when it passes out of our family. Thus, we envisioned a time when the entire Salona property would be a historic resource for future generations.

While the terms of the conservation easement are extensive, at its heart it was intended to protect and preserve the property's historic, cultural and natural resource values. As the Park Authority can attest, we strove throughout our negotiations over the terms of the easement to protect those values and to try to minimize any adverse impact to our neighbors of park development. Our goals in granting the conservation easement are well summed up in the opening language of the Purposes section of the easement: "to preserve the open, scenic, natural, and historic character and values of the Property ...".

While we agreed and understood that one or two natural turf rectangular athletic fields were one of the permitted uses under the conservation easement, we also understood and believed that the park plan would be developed in collaboration with the community and that the public would have a meaningful opportunity to help shape the plan for the park uses. In other words, we didn't think fields would be imposed on the community if that's not what they wanted.

12/18/2010 Fields email

We are a family with 2 boys and a dog and are relatively new to McLean. I grew up in D.C. and my husband and I met here. We have returned to the area after 20 years in Monterey County California and are glad to be back. We appreciate the rich history this area holds. We love the outdoors and our two children are involved in sports and have been raised as hikers, backpackers and sailors.

I am writing to express my deep concern for the proposed development of Salona, specifically the land that is slated to become sports fields, parking and a dog park. We are an active family and understand the importance of athletics and plenty of playing fields but this area seems completely inappropriate given the history of the property, the degradation to our watershed and the rare opportunity the property presents for educational purposes.

12/18/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that we support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

The McLean Youth Soccer and other athletic organizations have been a great experience for our two boys (8 and 10) and are very important for the health of our community in many ways, such as physical, mental and social well-being. We understand the historic value of the property, but perhaps there is a way to recognize the historic value with status, plaques, etc. but allow the community to also make good use of the area in a productive way that benefits our community and our kids.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/18/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

12/18/2010 Fields email

Our area needs more soccer and athletic fields and the Tyson's development should have as many as possible. I am in a year round adult soccer league that has been around for 30+ years. We used to be able to get a field in Fairfax Co during the day on Saturday. But because of the lack of fields we are having to play our games at 8 pm and even 9 pm. This is absurd. And we need more fields for kids too. Please be aware that I am a regular voter and support more fields for youth and adults.

12/18/2010 Fields email

Fairfax county school has severely cut it's Physical education and recess time for all children. It forces parents who are lucky enough to have the time and financial means to enroll in non-school sports for their children. In addition, removing the fields directly supports the obesity epidemic in this country. Is this the legacy Mclean wants to leave?
Please keep the fields in your plans!

12/18/2010 Fields email

I am a resident of McLean and have two daughters, ages 10 and 14. Both girls have played and continue to participate in various athletic programs in our area, including soccer and lacrosse. I cannot emphasize enough just how important sports have been to them and their development. The lessons of teamwork, perseverance, and physical rigor have become a big part of who they are. While we are fortunate to have so much as residents of Fairfax County, one thing that is in very short supply, especially in the densely populated McLean area, is space for athletic fields. The number of our facilities is woefully lacking compared with jurisdictions where land is more available, but here in the Salona tract, we have a golden opportunity to maximize what little space there is and provide quality fields to our area's youth. This decision to build fields would provide countless days of beneficial athletic activity to hundreds, or perhaps thousands of our youth. What a great thing for the county to support! Thank you for your time on this and I remain hopeful for a positive outcome on this.

12/18/2010 Fields email

I wanted to express my support for the development of athletic fields for our entire sport's community specially our youth in the Fairfax County.
As a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.
Athletic fields are needed to keep up with the growth and diversity of our communities.
The growth of Tyson's Corner alone brings shortages of sport's fields. Children need more public places to interact and develop their athletic, physical as well as social skills.
Many medical researchers support that today's children are in need of more physical activities than ever before due to increase in technological activities.
The elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being of not only our children but also the entire McLean community.
It is our social responsibilities to support preservation of these fields.
Thank you for your kind consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/18/2010 Fields email

As the parent of three McLean children, two of whom have now graduated from high school but who played soccer since they were each 4 years old, I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop more athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I worked on the MYS Fields Task Force with our local supervisor and supported MYS' funding for turf fields. Given the great need as more and more children play soccer and the number of children in McLean increases, I urge you to ensure that the two fields to be built at Salona are completed.

The elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss not only for our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/18/2010 Fields email

I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I am a member of the board of McLean Citizen Association as well as on the board of McLean Revitalization Corporation. I am also a professor at Georgetown. I have two kids that grew up in Mclean and now are in college, they both played soccer. I am not speaking on behalf of these organizations but as a citizen in McLean.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a mistake. There is a vocal community in McLean that wants no change. This community is usually older and sees changes in McLean as a problem. I do not see it that way. The Salona project was negotiated over 4 years.

There was detailed agreement that no lights could be installed or that the fields could not be turf.

These are reasonable compromises. The proposed fields will not interfere with the natural beauty of the place nor will it prevent the rest of the area to be used for natural walks and other similar purposes.

The vocal minority that shows at county discussion groups does not represent the larger majority with kids, who represent the future of Mclean. Parents with kids are typically younger and do not have as much free time. Nevertheless, if the choice is between a place that kids can visit and use versus a natural preserve that hardly anyone will use, I would like to see the place used. Since when kids laughing and playing is considered a detriment to the community?

Thank you for your consideration.

12/18/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/18/2010 Natural, Cultural email

I would love a nearby dog park to take our pooch but this land is too precious to Mclean's history and our sense of place. (How about designating a stretch of Pimmit Run with strict cleanup rules instead?) I have had a chance to review the plans for the site and I also read the Cultural Report. I honestly don't get it. The Cultural Report is very concise and clearly makes an overwhelming case for the preservation of this land and all it has to offer our community. Is there another property with Salona's history and educational potential this close to our Capitol that has been preserved to this extent? I can imagine Salona as a place that establishes a sense of identity for Mclean and broadens our appreciation of our history and nature.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/18/2010 Natural, Cultural email

As some of you may know, my parents bought the Salona property in 1952 and our family has owned it ever since. My parents restored the house and lived there until they passed away in 1997 and 2002, respectively. Obviously, Salona is a special place for our family, but I also believe that it is a special place for McLean. In addition to its history, having been a refuge for James Madison in the War of 1812 and a part of Camp Griffin in the Civil War, it represents one of the last remaining examples of a 19th and 20th century farm in this part of Fairfax. The front fields are probably essentially much as they had been two hundred years ago when the property was an active farm. As the Cultural Landscape Report prepared for the Park Authority states: "the property itself has altered little and remains as a testament to an earlier era when Virginia was founded on and sustained by an agrarian economy."

My father throughout his career had always been an ardent conservationist, even at a time when that was somewhat of a political liability in Virginia. My mother loved the outdoors and was equally devoted to environmental and conservation values. They both dearly loved Salona, and sought to preserve and protect it throughout their lives there. In 1971 they placed a historic easement on the house and about 8 surrounding acres.

It was with this legacy in mind that, after my father passed away in 2002, Karen and I and my brother began to try to find a way to preserve the heritage of the property in perpetuity. While we had resisted entreaties from developers for many years, we wanted to try to find a plan that would preserve the property for current and future generations, which we believed both my parents would have wanted. We worked for several years with a couple of conservation organizations, including most notably the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, to formulate a plan to protect the property from development. Thanks in significant part to our Dranesville Park Authority Board member, we eventually worked out a plan that we hoped would achieve the goal of preserving the property.

12/18/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

We believed then, and continue to believe, that the property represents a significant natural and heritage resource. It should be carefully and thoughtfully protected as part of the master planning process.

Because of both its location and rich history Salona offers an unparalleled opportunity as a place where children and adults can learn about and experience the cultural and natural resources of the site and where people can interact and build community. As the Cultural Landscape Report concludes, the primary goal with respect to the meadow fields should be to "preserve the existing contributing historic features and the more recent environmental features, interpret both, and render them accessible to the public."

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/18/2010 Natural, interpretive email

Hello, I'm submitting my comments on the plan for Salona, as I presented at the hearing in November. Thanks for your good work on this issue,

I work with Lands and Waters, an environmental non-profit based in Fairfax County, and I am an environmentalist. I'm an environmentalist because of a stream where I played as a child, because of friends and relatives who took the time to show me the wonder of butterflies and rivers, of flowers and stars. I'm an environmentalist because of a tree I planted when I was five, because of teachers who went far beyond the required curriculum to share their love of nature with their students. I'm an environmentalist because I've watched places I love be bulldozed and destroyed. I'm an environmentalist because of natural places of beauty that others before me fought hard to protect, to share with future generations. Salona is one of those places, which is why I'm here today.

LW is a local environmental non-profit that is focussed on restoring natural landscapes. We convert schoolyards into native forests, which are then integrated into the school curriculum, providing hands-on learning experiences for the students. Our work is important - I often see kids for the first time amazed by the worms they find in the dirt, or proud and protective of the trees they've just planted. Hands-on experiences in nature are much rarer for this generation, and it's a privilege to be able to share the natural world with youth.

When we start a restoration project with students, I have to show them how to use a shovel. Twenty minutes later, they don't ever want to stop digging. They've been hearing about environmental problems for years, and it's as if this is their first chance to do something about it. I had a child ask me recently how long clouds had been around. She thought the clouds were caused by pollution. Imagine living in that world.

If you look at a map of Fairfax, you'll see that the forested areas are in the stream valleys, where it isn't possible to build. Most of the places that were fields of meadows like Salona have been built over, turned into subdivisions and malls and parking lots and athletics fields. Undisturbed natural areas like Salona are rare and special, and need to be protected and respected.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/18/2010

Nature Center

email

I am submitting my comments in regards to the FCPA proposal for Salona Park in McLean, VA. We feel the FCPA proposal is not the appropriate response to this unique site. Instead we are presenting an alternative vision to this site to feature learning gardens and a nature center to support the community and the garden function as well as celebrate the unique nature of the site.

An elaborate description including images and renderings of our proposal can be viewed at the following website:

http://web.me.com/g Hassanabukurah/Salona_Park_Proposal/Project_Description.html

Below is a verbal summary of our proposal.

A consortium of individuals joined forces to develop an alternative vision for the future development of Salona Park. Spearheaded by Green McLean, a sustainability initiative and community-based group with the support of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce and Green Spur.

A2 Design, an award winning Architecture and Planning firm based in McLean developed this proposal synthesizing the community vision to preserve and enhance this unique site.

The approach for this alternative plan was simple: come up with a vision that is tailored towards the community. A vision that speaks to the rich history of this special place, while safeguarding its ecological integrity. The proposal is for a community nature center that serves to:

- speak to history, ecology and sustainability in an interactive manner;
- act as an icon and a gateway for McLean and the McLean community;
- become a living learning pavilion in a natural setting; and
- do so with
 - Minimal impact to the topography of the site and the environment
 - Optimal utility by visitors of all ages.

The proposed plan is situated in the northern section of the middle and eastern fields that are naturally divided by the two lines of existing hedgerows.

The nature center and gardens being proposed are located in the existing Eastern and Middle fields of Salona. By creating an activity cluster set back from Dolley Madison Boulevard, this plan achieves the goal of minimal impact on the site.

The potential components are:

- Walking trails from the southeast corner of the site that run along the existing canopy of hedgerows, finally connecting to a series of gardens and a nature center.
- Nature Center and Learning Pavilion: The structure is located in the middle field and lifted off the ground to the level of the existing grasses and surrounded by observation decks
- Community Garden to engage the local community's participation on the site.
- Water Collection Cistern surrounded by outdoor observation/recreational decks. The site is designed such that all rain water from impervious surfaces and surrounding grounds is collected and stored to serve 100% of the site water needs (with the exception of drinking water), i.e. irrigation, etc.
- A Research Garden. Researchers, naturalists, horticulturalists, botanists, hobbyists and students from all levels will use this garden as a learning laboratory focused on indigenous material.
- A parking "Garden": a pervious surface parking lot with tree cover, buffered along all its edges by tree lines to minimize visibility from the surrounding neighborhood. Parking spaces are set back from Dolley Madison Boulevard.
- Our proposal is comprised of various parts that can in fact be built in phases, much like a farm would develop and grow over time. This approach would mitigate the initial financial impact and make this development more feasible in the immediate future. In fact, if structured through a Public-Private Partnership, this could be achieved with little to no financial burden on the part of the Park Authority both in terms of initial cost and the long term maintenance and operating cost.

03: The nature center and surrounding grounds are proposed as a fully sustainable site and building with the goal of being a Net Zero Energy Building (NZEB). Net Zero Buildings are buildings that are connected to the grid but through the use of renewable on-site energy, yield an annual utility cost of: \$0. The U.S. Department of Energy and other institutions are already injecting funds into NZEB's in the US which lags far behind other countries. What an enormous opportunity for the FCPA and the McLean community to create such an exemplary project just 15 minutes outside of our nation's capital. The Iconography of the barn building and the water tank or Grain Silo are used as markers that anchor both ends of the middle field pavilion. They evoke the history of the farm and achieve practical functions in a modern way. The butterfly roof acts as a large collection systems that drains into two cisterns on the eastern and western side of the pavilion. The water from the roof, decks and grounds is collected

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/19/2010 Natural, interpretive email

The southern woodlands and stream valley area could provided over a 10-15 year time frame an excellent area for the development of a demonstration area for an historical Virginia native plants woodlands area and demonstration of how a degraded stream could be restored over time to a more historical/natural type of stream environment. The southern woodlands area is infested with invasive (generally not badly infested); so once the invasive species have been eliminated (3-5 year effort easily) a wide range of Virginia native woodland plants could be introduced over time. Some means would have to be found to protect the newly introduced native plants from being consumed by the deer, however. Over a 10-15 year time frame, the southern woodlands area could become an historical type Virginia woodlands area populated only with native area plants. The two streams that traverse the area have over time been degraded by uncontrolled storm water runoff and are characterized in many places by steep banks and often straight through flow conditions. The stream area provides an excellent site for the demonstration of how to restore a tributary to a natural, meandering type stream using small scale projects – minimum construction, no large pieces of equipment and very limited disturbance of the area.

12/19/2010 Natural, interpretive email

A wide range of activities could be developed with the students from Franklin Sherman and other local area Elementary and Middle school whereby they could use and participate in the activities associated with Salona Park once it is developed. Exactly what these activities could or should be should be defined in conjunction with the local area schools. Some consideration should be given to planting some type of plant barrier (moderate in size and height) to partially shield the Salona complex from the noise of the traffic on Route 123; any such planting should be of some historical significance and minimum impact on the fields adjacent to Route 123.

12/19/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

The Salona Park Master Plan should focus on the Salona tract as a very special parcel of land where over time (a 10-15 year time horizon) a truly unique demonstration and research complex could be developed. The complex would encompass environmental, historical, and cultural demonstration projects and areas. The tract taken as a whole offers the opportunity to develop over time a truly 'one of a kind' type of complex or center for Fairfax County, Virginia and probably for the eastern part of the United States.

The Salona Tract can be divided into 5 distinct areas with each area having its own unique demonstration area potential. The 5 distinct areas area: 1) The East Field, 2) The Middle Field, 3) The West Field, 4) the historical area around the Salona House, and 5) The South Woodlands and Stream Valley Area.

The first area, the East Field, could be turned into a sustainable demonstration area unique to the eastern half of the United States. A Net Zero demonstration building could be developed based on a public-private partnership; this building would be centered around showcasing the education, research, and cultural aspects associated with the entire Salona Complex. The East Field could host a historical gardening demonstration area where both community gardening and research gardening could occur.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/19/2010 Nature Center email

While this activity goes forward, work could proceed on further planning and development. I would suggest an ambitious long-term plan – establishing Salona as an Environmental and History Center. The plan could be implemented gradually, as funding is made available. It would include building a structure that would serve as a model for protecting the environment, and in which programs could be held that would enhance the public's knowledge and understanding of the area's natural environment and historical development, and encourage environmental protection.

These programs could draw upon the many experts who live and work in the greater Washington area, for example, horticultural experts from the National Arboretum and the Botanic Garden as well as environmental and horticultural experts from local universities. There are also numerous individuals who are interested in and knowledgeable about the history of the area. These sessions could be open to those who sign up for them and, when appropriate, also contribute to the cost of producing them. They could be designed to meet the interests of both adults and children.

A model for such programs could be those held at Mt. Cuba, an outstanding non-profit horticultural institution in northern Delaware, dedicated to the study, conservation, and appreciation of plants native to the Appalachian Piedmont Region. Its gardens are the finest I have ever seen, and Salona could develop beautiful native plant garden areas as well. Mt Cuba conducts outstanding and extremely varied educational programs that are open to those who sign up for them, which makes it possible to control the number who attend and thus avoid overcrowding. I would recommend that planners visit Mt. Cuba to get ideas for what could be done at Salona. (www.McCubaCenter.org)

I believe there are many in our community who would be willing to contribute to the development and maintenance of an institution of this kind, particularly if there is vigorous public leadership. I hope that the Park Service and local officials will consider the contribution that Salona would make to our area if this approach to its development is followed.

12/19/2010 Parking email

A 21st century green parking area could be developed in the East Field that not only could be a demonstration of what can be done, but could provide limited opportunities for future demo/research projects.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/19/2010 Process email

I trust that a FULL report will be made to the PA Board about the overwhelming consensus of those who attended the most recent (Nov.) Public Hearing – that is:

1. SALONA is the ONLY historic site in MC Lean. To disregard history and commercialize this SITE by allowing Soccer Fields and massive parking lot(s) would be a Travesty of huge proportions.
2. With the greatest of respect, I urge the Board to respect MY testimony at the Public Hearing, which was that the Board should ask ALL of the pertinent questions and consider ALL of the alternatives before making a decision.....failure to do so would be directly in conflict with Court decisions and could expose PA Board Members to petitions for Recall and/or other legal actions. I have heard – but cannot believe – that the PA Board may NOT receive from the Staff a complete transcript of the comments from all of us who took the time to testify on that cold evening in November.
3. If there is a small, organized group -- looking only at their narrow interests whose goal is to pressure the PA Board to disregard the views of those MANY, MANY citizens who have documented the unique character of the Salona property, then shame on those public officials who would fall victim to such abuse. Salona is about history. There are other alternatives for soccer fields – in places without history significance and certainly more accommodative to heavy traffic than on congested Route 123.
4. If the Board adopts any proposal to convert this Historic property into soccer fields with parking for 100, then I personally will lead an honest effort to each official who is responsible for such blatant policy misjudgment – those elected and those appointed officials. Democracy would demand no less. Certainly, the decline nationwide of confidence in the integrity of ALL governmental officials cannot go lower. Or can it?
5. Witnessing the last public hearing – where there was nearly unanimous consensus NOT to debase this Historic Site – I can only say that a contrary result from the PA Board should be brought to the attention of all local media, all citizens groups and, if necessary, active and vigorous public demonstrations against ALL of those responsible.
6. If this proceeds as an “INSIDE JOB,” as I have heard it might, then I – a Vietnam Era Veteran – will personally organize civil disobedience on a scale never before seen in Fairfax County – we will not let the PA Board, or the Supervisors or any other public official responsible for such an unjust result go politically unpunished. The very fact that we might have to resort to such measures is, itself, regrettable.

12/19/2010 Process email

I believe that the best course to follow in coming up with a plan for the Salona property that will meet the wishes and the needs of the community is for you, as the local Supervisor, to appoint a Salona Study Group. The charge of this Study Group would be to study and consider alternative uses of this uniquely valuable property, and to recommend to you, the Park Service, and other responsible entities, the actions that should be taken. It should be composed of 7-10 individuals who are committed to spend the time and energy necessary to study the alternatives carefully, and, after eliciting community views regarding alternatives, recommend how the development of Salona should proceed.

Recommendations should include plans for both the shorter term and the longer term.

I hope that the thoughts that I have expressed below would be part of the Study Group's consideration.

The Future of Salona

Salona's 41 acres provide a remarkable opportunity to develop a unique park and educational facility for the residents of McLean and Fairfax County. At the public comment meeting on November 17 held by the Fairfax County Park Authority, speakers were nearly unanimous in urging that the draft proposed plan for two rectangular fields and a 100 car parking lot adjacent to Route 123 be rejected, and that the property's natural areas be preserved and enhanced.

Assuming that the Park Authority will heed the community's concerns, it is necessary to carefully think through a new plan for Salona's future.

Given the historical value and natural beauty of Salona, development should proceed slowly and in accordance with community wishes.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/19/2010 Trails email

The non-buildable lot at the corner of Kurtz Road and Route 123 owned by SunTrust Bank should be purchased if possible or an easement obtained thru the lot so that the projected trail adjacent to Route 123 could be completed so that people wanting to access the Salona Tract by walking down Route 123 could safely get to the Salona Park complex.

12/19/2010 Trails email

The natural surface trails in this area should be sited and developed over time in conjunction with the development of the two major demonstration aspects of this area. A loop trail "to no where" with no real purpose should be avoided. A trail link to the Pimmit Run Trail in Pimmit Bend Park should be developed if possible to provide an opportunity for users to link up with the larger Pimmit Run Trail system and to provide an opportunity for the community areas south of Pimmit Run access into the Salona Park area.

Other Considerations:

There should be a natural surface trail off of Kurtz Road where Sothoron Road (currently exists only on the east side of the Salona Tract) would have intersected with Kurtz Road if Sothoron Road had extended thru the Salona Tract to Kurtz Road as once planned. There may be an existing easement that would allow access here off of Kurtz Road into the Salona Tract. This would provide access for the communities to the west of the park and the elementary school students from Franklin Sherman Elementary School easy access to the park.

12/19/2010 Trails email

That does not mean, however, that no progress can be made. As was suggested at the November 17 meeting, it would be possible to recruit volunteers – Scout troops, for example - to develop and maintain walking trails that would be available to the public in a relatively short time. In addition volunteer efforts could be encouraged to reduce the volume of invasive species on the property. Costs of this development to the County would be minimal, limited to making available trail maps and instructive signage, and providing a small parking area.

12/20/2010 Art, Cultural, email

McLean lacks personality, soul, history. I'd love to see a green space with an international contest for a exceptional fountain or art installation in the park. People would come just to hang out. The space has wonderful light at sunset.

12/20/2010 Cultural email

I am sensitive to the historic issues involved. I served on the County Bicentennial Commission. The sound of children running and playing is NOT inconsistent with a respect for history. Sporting fields will bring Salona to life...and maybe result in more visitors who understand and respect the historical resources in Fairfax.

12/20/2010 Dog Park email

○ Dog parks also encourage driving and the inevitable waste products left behind are health hazards and pollutants.

○ If a dog park was established, inevitably, dog owners would let their pets off leash in the other areas of Salona (just as they do now in the Scotts Run Nature Preserve). Dogs will add more waste material to the areas outside of the dog park and will harass wildlife (as they do now in Scotts Run).

○ Both sports and dog parks will be a stain on Salona's cultural and historical legacy.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please keep me informed on updates to the Salona Park planning process.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Fields email

We support the development and construction of athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County and the McLean area in particular. Our two children both play soccer in the McLean Youth/Premier Soccer organization, and we have noticed the difficulty our coaches and managers have in scheduling field time for practice and games due to the fierce competition just within the MYS/MPS program here locally. Therefore my wife and I consider it absolutely essential that you make sure the two sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

If those fields are eliminated from the development plan it will be an irretrievable loss to the MYS/MPS program, and to the general health of the children in our community. The MYS/MPS program is well-regarded as one of the best in the region, and these two fields will enhance the program's quality and benefit the community as a whole as more playing areas become available for all our citizens.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. However I do not support the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. Please look for other options in McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that we support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, we want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I am a lifelong resident of Fairfax County, work in Fairfax, coached youth soccer and have 2 high school age soccer players who grew up in the MYS soccer organization. (they both play other sports as well) PLEASE do all you can to keep the new proposed fields at Salona,. The field shortage is acute. Literally thousands of children lives are improved by our local sporting organizations, but they are crammed into smaller and smaller areas on overcrowded practice facilities. Kids are what life is all about....please give them the opportunity to run and play in our increasingly urban area.

12/20/2010 Fields email

Since you are the Project Manager for the Fairfax County Park Authority, I am emailing you about the Athletic Fields at Salona. Given the financial straits that local governments, including Fairfax County, are facing, and the financial stress that Fairfax County residents and families are under, I write to OPPOSE adding to these burdens by developing more artificial athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Even though I am a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I do NOT support at this time the project for two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement as the planning moves forward for the Salona Project. While I too am cocerned about the health and well-being not only of our children but of all citizens of McLean, I am equally cocerned about the financial integrity of these families and the County and the added financial stress that these fields would cause at this time. Thank you.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean. It is so difficult to find the space and opportunity to provide sports fields; let's not lose the chance to help our children get healthy and to realize the many benefits of athletics.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

My concerns extend to building new fields, grass or synthetic, as well as converting grass fields to synthetic turf in these uncertain economical times. Thank you again.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I am writing to support efforts to develop additional athletic fields for our children and the community to engage in formal and informal athletic activities. I am a long time member of McLean Youth Soccer participating as a player parent, coach, referee and adult player. Soccer and other youth sports provide terrific opportunities to engage in healthy activities as well as learn important life lessons. As a community, I strongly believe that we should take steps to encourage and enhance such activities.

Accordingly, I strongly believe that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement should be preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

Elimination of these fields from the development plan would represent a loss for the health and well-being of our children as well as for all McLean residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

Hello, I'm writing as a mom and a park user in Mclean. I am not in favor of installing athletic fields at Salona.

My kids are 7 and 9 and are already well served by the parks in the area, as we are also well served by the athletic fields. We do not need more.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project. The fields are very important to have as soccer is a huge sport in McLean - by my calculation about 7-9% of the entire population of McLean plays at least one season a year with MYS.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I am a 15+ year resident of McLean with 3 children. I wish to strongly urge the Park Authority to build at least two soccer fields on the Salona property. This part of the county has too few quality athletic fields for all of the children who want to play.

There is already a large parcel of land behind Salona which is treed and contains nature trails (Pimmet Bend Park).

Please use a portion of the Salona property for soccer fields.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I do not support the efforts to develop soccer fields as part of the Salona Project. As a long term volunteer coach and member of McLean Youth Soccer, I am very dismayed by the heavy-handed tactics of the club in their efforts to force through soccer field projects in this and other locations in the Mclean area.

McLean Youth Soccer and their supporters will undoubtedly bombard the debate with claims about America's sedentary youth and how organized soccer is the only cure. The fact is that building soccer fields will greatly limit youth access to this vital open space by permanently setting it aside for one subset of the population - one that is already reasonably physically active. As an MYS coach, I can personally attest that most of the exercise that takes place at games is more than offset by the juiceboxes, sugary snacks and trips to McDonalds that are offered up as rewards to the players for their "hard work."

12/20/2010 Fields email

I strongly support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to ensure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields email

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

As a pediatric orthopaedic surgeon and the head of the Sports Medicine program at Childrens National Medical Center I am daily reminded of the importance of exercise and sports participation for our youth. I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Fields Paper mail

I wanted to let you know that I support efforts to develop athletic fields for youth and community sports in Fairfax County. Specifically, as a member of McLean Youth Soccer, I want to encourage you to make sure that the two rectangular sports fields provided for in the DuVal conservation easement are preserved as the County moves forward in the planning process for the Salona Project.

I believe that elimination of these fields from the development plan would be a loss for the health and well-being not only of our children but for all citizens of McLean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/20/2010 Fields, Dog Park email

• This park should not be used for sports fields, dog parks, or other high-density, high-polluting, and costly uses.

O As a former soccer dad, I am a fan of recreational activity and sports for kids – just not in Salona. It is an inappropriate location on many levels.

12/20/2010 Fields, Dog Park email

Soccer fields and dog parks on the other hand are inappropriate for this site. They are high-impact uses, requiring costly annual maintenance, and generate pollution that is not acceptable for the meadows, wet lands, and the proximity to Pimmit Run. Sports fields and dog parks would also be a blemish on the history and culture of this land. It is a mistake to use this land for a short-sighted stop-gap measure such as sports fields, at the expense of the long-term significance of Salona.

12/20/2010 Fields, Dog Park, Natural email

I do not believe that introducing soccer fields and dog parks is compatible with these two stated park purposes (under "Park Aspirations"):

- To preserve the open, scenic, natural, and historic character and values of the property
- Assure that the conservation values of the property be perpetually maintained and preserved

Thank you for the opportunity to express my input; I had heard about this issue only recently. Hopefully there will be more time allowed for wider input from the public.

12/20/2010 Fields, Interpretation, Natural email

Salona is a historical and environmentally valuable site both for restoration and function as wildlife habitat and stormwater management. As a teacher of environmental education for Lands and Waters, I can assure you this property is far more valuable to our youth as a teaching tool for natural ecosystems than soccer fields. I have raised 3 children in Fairfax County all of which played soccer. I am not against soccer and would support their creation in appropriate places. Salona is not the place! Soccer fields bring more than soccer to an area – they bring parking lots and pollution. I know I have spent countless hours beside soccer fields. It is not mindful to take an area like Salona and degrade it. Our youth will have soccer fields to play on longer and in greater abundance than they will have natural areas to visit in Fairfax County.

When the county purchased the property to put in a perpetual easement, it committed itself to treating it in a manner respectful of its historical, educational, and ecological value. Fairfax County and the Park Service have an obligation to respect not only Salona but the wishes of all parties – not just one.

12/20/2010 Fields, Natural email

O Sports fields encourage large numbers of vehicles to congregate and scheduled times. Vehicles contribute to water pollution, as the petroleum and other caustic liquids that leak from vehicles readily find their way into water systems.

O Sports fields require substantial, costly, polluting maintenance. Fertilizers, herbicides, and petroleum products will find their ways into the surrounding water systems. The cost of cutting fields, applying chemicals, maintaining parking lots, and cleaning up after sports events would be a never-ending burden to the county.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Funding email

O As a cost analyst, I understand well that the largest costs of any project are the ongoing, annual operating and maintenance (O&M) costs – which are generally not fully taken into consideration at project initiation. The initial construction and set-up costs are dwarfed by the O&M costs.

12/20/2010 Funding, Fields email

I have briefly reviewed the Salona Park Master Plan as well as the citizen comments document posted on your website. I am a resident of the Kings Manor neighborhood (on the "other" side of Dolley Madison) and I agree with many of the cited concerns of Salona's nearby residents, particularly in regard to the challenge AND costs of managing the high-volume traffic and parking associated with the soccer field option. This is a critical concern and it requires a thoughtful, comprehensive solution. Furthermore, as I understand the soccer fields would not be astro turf, the high cost of maintenance of a grass field would certainly make it a non-practical (cost-prohibitive) option. Given the county's severe budgetary constraints, the funding aspect of this currently unfunded plan is all the more pertinent.

12/20/2010 Gardens interpretive email

O Natural meadows could be augmented by organic gardens and other plant life growing experiments. Children and adults could plant and observe local plants, take "censuses" of wildlife, build small animal habitats, plant trees that produce food for wildlife, set up rain gardens, plant butterfly gardens. The possibilities for enhancing the environmental quality of the land while increasing education opportunities are limitless.

12/20/2010 General Phone Call

Liked Master plan in general. (Summary)

12/20/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

I attended the public meeting on November 17th regarding the draft master plan for Salona Park. My written comments are attached. Please find below a summary of my comments.
Salona is a cultural, historic, and environmental gem in the heart of McLean. Its park functions should consist of cultural, historical, and environmental learning opportunities and activities for children and adults. Such activities would be low-impact and would be low-cost. I envision volunteers conducting most of the ongoing activities and much of the maintenance.

12/20/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

- Salona is a culturally, historically, and environmentally rich piece of land in the heart of McLean, Virginia.
 - O Its place in history and our American culture is a result of the use of the land and buildings during the War of 1812 and the Civil War.
 - O Environmentally, it currently contains natural meadows, wetlands, and forest.
 - O This special place is a jewel for McLean, Virginia, and the United States.
 - This gem of a park should be used for education and conservation. These uses would be the most appropriate, long-lasting, and cost-effective.
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12/20/2010 Natural, Cultural, interpretive email

o The historical aspect of the land could be tied in, with walking tours, placards, and discussions of how the land was used as a farm, a civil war encampment, etc. The placards could also point out wildlife flora and fauna aspects of the area (one example being the blue bird initiative brought up at the meeting). Comparisons of how the animals and plants may have changed from the 1700s and 1800s to today.
O These types of activities are very inexpensive to maintain. We can surely find enough volunteers, students, and scouts to manage these activities. There would be virtually no pollution generated by these activities, as they would be low-impact, low-density, organic, and machinery-free.

12/20/2010 Nature Center email

Kids could learn about the history, the flora and the fauna of Mclean from a nature center. Let's try something different for the future of McLean.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

12/20/2010 Nature, Trails email

What Mclean does need is a public green space, walking trails and to preserve some of it's history. We also need a public access to Pimmit Run. We need to take all precautions against further degrading that stream with chemical fertilizers that an athletic field would require.

12/20/2010 Traffic Phone Call

Very concerned about traffic as it is. Even more concerned with what will happen after park is developed with fields particularly at rush hour. Getting in and out of park and Buchanan Street will be impossible. (Summary)

12/20/2010 Trails, Natural, Cultural email

Our tax dollars would be better spent preserving this open space in a manner that all could benefit from and enjoy. Simple pedestrian paths through unmolested natural spaces would provide for increased environmental awareness, physical exercise of myriad forms, wildlife habitat preservation, and a greater sense of community. Building soccer fields on the Salona site would lead to serious degradation of the area. All one need do is stroll around one of the many existing Mclean-area soccer fields on a weekend morning and the traffic congestion, illegal parking, and littering will provide ample evidence that soccer fields are not the appropriate use of this historic property.

I urge you to consider other options for this vital piece of open space in Mclean.

Thank you for your consideration.

12/21/2010 Fields email

Afraid I'm a day late, but if not, we would like to express our support in favor of a more natural use of the Salona space. We have two children in MYS travel soccer. While we love what MYS has done with fields, we feel there are enough fields in McLean and would prefer some of the open space to be used in other ways. Salona's wetlands and history make it unique. It would be a shame to turn that longstanding unused space to more athletic fields. Our eldest daughter is a soccer player, but is also a docent at Claude Moore Colonial Farm. She loves having a place in McLean where she can spend a full day outdoors. She very much would like to see the Salona area in a natural state vice more parking lots and fields.

Thanks for your work on this. Feel free to call us to discuss.

12/22/2010 Dog Park Phone message

Calling about view on proposed dog park at Salona. My views not totally negative. Just be careful where you put the dog park. For example, several years ago in Arlington County a dog park was built along Old Glebe Road, beyond chapel. It was an idyllic setting, nice and grassy area with trees, a chain link fence and large receptacle for dog poop. It was well furnished with plastic bags. This was a great start, but it became very smelly due to the dog poop. The grass was worn away due to the dog traffic and it became mud. It was also very noisy due to the dogs barking. This was certainly a good idea, but eventually it was closed. Now the spot is nice and grassy again. So you just need to be careful where you put it. I know there was not a lot of positive commentary at the meeting. Just my view point. Thank you.

Salona Draft Master Plan Comments

1/3/2011 Fields / Traffic email

As a McLean Youth Soccer parent, I recently received a group e-mail encouraging all members to contact the Fairfax County Park Authority to support building soccer fields as part of the Salona Project. While my husband and I are not in favor of new soccer fields in this location, we understand the need for more soccer fields for youth activities. However, we seriously doubt that this location is appropriate given existing traffic flow and traffic control devices. We live in the neighborhood accessed by Buchanan Drive, which would also provide access to any new fields. The neighborhood is effectively landlocked and cannot be exited toward downtown McLean without crossing Route 123. During peak traffic hours from 3:30 to 7 PM, it is virtually impossible for a single car to safely turn left from Buchanan onto Rte. 123, which is the direction most cars would leave to return to McLean and the neighborhoods the fields would serve. The notion that as many as 30 or 40 cars could safely leave afternoon practices without the installation of a light is absurd. For that reason, we will object to the use of Salona for soccer fields, unless or until the county provides a traffic light at Rte. 123 and Buchanan. We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience.
