

Comments received regarding the Salona Master Plan are presented here in an effort to provide the public with some sense of the wide range of opinions and concerns regarding this plan and this site. We have removed e-mail addresses and phone numbers where appropriate, but otherwise, the contents are untouched. Correspondence as well as sign in sheets at public meetings are releasable, public documents under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and are not protected from disclosure.

It is our intention to post all comments periodically in an effort to establish a transparent process and to encourage further public comment. Additional information sources are outlined elsewhere on this site as well as information pertaining to our upcoming public comment meeting.

Should you have questions regarding the posting of this material or the approaching meeting, please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

Judy Pedersen, Public Information Officer

Dear Andy Galusha,

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.

Thank you,
Hronn Wallach

Dear Sir or Madam - please consider a bike trail down the 123 side of the park. We need it desperately so that we can safely bike into McLean to do our grocery shopping etc. Wouldn't it be great to leave cars at home?.

Thank you,
Cynthia Alksne

Dear Andy,

Thank you for a fine presentation the other evening on the proposed development for Solona Park. This could be a nice asset for our community.

I spoke up a couple of times, but want to get my thoughts in writing to you, as well.

I am president of the Merryhill Homeowners Association. Our homes are directly across Rt. 123 from the proposed park.

These are our concerns:

1. Traffic: Turning left out of our community is pretty tricky at any time, and at peak hours it is almost impossible. Any increase around this area could completely box us in.

Please encourage VDOT to put a light at Buchanan.

2. Parking: If there is not sufficient parking at the Park, we fear that folks will park along Rt. 123. Please make sure this does not happen by prohibiting parking on that side of the street. As I noted: it seems that there is a trend to underestimate the needed parking. Thus, over at Clemyjontri, we have parents and kids at risk when walking from Langley Forks Park over to Clemyjontri.

3. Noise: Sufficient natural buffer should be installed to protect adjoining neighborhoods from noise.

4. Pedestrian Friendly: McLean is already way too chopped up, making pedestrian traffic difficult. Can we find a way to integrate Solona Park by foot into the neighborhood off of Kurtz Road? And, some sidewalk along 123.

5. I understand that lights are not going to be permitted on this site. It will be very important to neighboring communities that this remains the case.

Again, thank you for your attention to this park and our community's needs.

All the best,

Carla White Freyvogel

To Park Authority Representative

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.

There are few parks that are as accessible as Salona has the potential to be. Pedestrian connections are essential to the development and need to be factored in from the very beginning. Not only is the projected trail along Dolly Madison connecting to the beautiful new segment of trail just built by Trinity Church important, but even more so the connection to the West along 123. A unprotected crosswalk at Buchanan would be desirable, as noted by attendees, but just as important will be a continuous trail along 123 going west, to connect with those crossings of Dolley Madison which are already protected by traffic signals. A continuous at least 6 ft. wide trail should reach west along the south side of 123 to at least the crossing of Churchill/Old Chain Bridge. There are missing segments between Chain Bridge Road and Kurtz and again between Kurtz and the Park, but my Fairfax County property map shows that sufficient right of way should be available along 123 to permit such a connecting trail to be built.

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

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.

Sincerely,

Maya A. Huber, ex Fairfax County Planning Commissioner at Large.

Maya Huber

Dear Mr. Galusha - 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.

Could you provide assurance that when the Salona property is developed, it also will have a 10 foot wide asphalt trail along the 123 frontage?

Thanks,

John Sadler

Hello Andrew,

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 Bucanan?

I did not see any details about these two issues on the web site. Please let me know how the traffic and parking will be controlled?

Regards,
Amy Zarafshar

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.

Sincerely,

Perri Green

Mr. Galushla,

Thank you for the update. 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.

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.

Thank You!

Dennis Frew

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.

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. Thank you.

John Adams

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?

Lynn White

Hello Andy-

My name is Wilma Bowers and I live in Salona Village II (off Buchanan Street). We recently had a neighborhood gathering and asked the neighbors in our community to outline their concerns about the development of Salona Park.

Here is our collective list:

1. Concern for increased traffic in our neighborhood. This concern is two fold:

a. 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.

b. 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.

3. 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*.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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?

Andy-Thank you being willing to receive our comments. We are very interested in hearing the Park Authority's perspective on these concerns and would be willing to meet with the Park Authority or have a phone call to receive your response.

Thank you.
Wilma Bowers

[On behalf of the Salona neighbors in attendance at our neighborhood meeting on June 5, 2010 \(over 50 people attended\)](#)

*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.

Hi Sandra,

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.

Hope to hear from you when you have a chance.

Linda Burchfiel

Subject: Dog Park in McLean

Hi...My name is Yvonne May and 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.

Please let me know what I need to do to get this process started.
Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,
Yvonne May