

TYSONS PARK SYSTEM CONCEPT PLAN

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

The draft Tysons Park System Concept Plan document was posted online for public input on April 16, 2014 and comments were received by the Park Authority up through July 7, 2014. Public input was received via email, U.S. postal mail, web feedback form, over the telephone, and in person at two public open house meetings and at the Tysons Farmer's Market grand opening. The list of representative comments below is organized according to each of the seven elements/chapters of the Tysons Park System Concept Plan.

PARK SYSTEM

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: "My vision for parks in Tysons is...MORE! We need more parkland and more open space."

"Increased emphasis should be placed on consolidating some of the smaller parks (pocket parks, civic plazas and common greens) into larger, centrally located parks that include elements of each type of urban park so they can be used year-round for multiple recreational and cultural experiences. For example, the summer sprayground could convert to an ice skating rink much like Canal Park in DC."

"...the use of 'signature' parks should be increased to include at least one more south of the Metrorail Silver Line."

The "...process of calculating new park land needed is problematic. It appears FCPA took the total 2050 projections and applied the Tysons park standard. New park needed should be based on the difference in the current and projected populations and workforces. Otherwise, there is an expectation that redevelopment will not only meet the park needs of the proposed project but also make up shortfalls of parks for existing development. Utilizing the delta between current and projected would result in the need for 117 acres of new parkland not 154. Also disagree with the premise that resource based parks should be excluded from the urban park land acreage...Does the push to separate resource protection parks from urban parks mean a proffer to provide resource protection parks or to expand such existing parks are not given credit toward meeting the urban parkland standard?"

CONNECTIVITY

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: "My vision for parks in Tysons is...more places to ride my bike," and "...a way across the Beltway."

"Review the Countywide Trails Plan to identify needed connections within a 3 mile radius of each of the four Tysons Metrorail Stations so that adjacent residents have pedestrian and bicycle access. Sidewalk and trail connections outside of the Tysons Urban Boundary should connect where possible with those identified in TMSAMS. Strongly support every effort to acquire right-of-way and complete the conceptual Tysons Community Circuit."

The Tysons Community Circuit "...is a wonderful concept that should be carried much further with multiple loops and interconnectivity. The recreational trail loop should be developed more and show connectivity to Vienna and the numerous smaller parks that are indicated on the map. Adding a multi-use trail along the Dulles Access Road and connecting to other area trails is suggested. This may take some burden off of the W&OD Trail which runs directly through Vienna."

“I’m really excited with the ‘Circuit’ envisioned in the Tysons Park System Concept Plan, especially with its capacity as a green infrastructure element that promotes the outcomes recommended in the ‘Live Healthy Fairfax Initiative.’”

“As a local cycling advocate, I would encourage you to adopt and put in place the complete Circuit trail. It is a critical aspect not only of our recreational infrastructure, but also our transportation infrastructure. I am both a local cyclist and a League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructor. I recently led a group of cyclists from Vienna to Tysons Corner to watch the Tour de Tysons bicycle races. The participants included young children. Most young and new adult cyclists feel much more comfortable on separated infrastructure, e.g., bicycle lanes and mixed use trails. Given the speed and volume of traffic on many of the streets in Tysons Corner, this is not an unreasonable concern; indeed, many experienced cyclists feel uncomfortable riding on the roads.”

“We request the language go further to state that the Circuit Trail is to be achieved using the existing trail network where available (so there is no confusion that this Trail is not supposed to require construction of new trails (not currently included in the Plan, approved rezoning plans, existing, etc.).)”

“Appreciate the effort to say parking and circulator lanes will not be impacted, but difficult to understand how without requiring more right-of-way. Please provide street/streetscape section and plan views to show how this concept could work. If there is no difference from a standard street with on-road bike lane - what makes the community circuit a signature park element? Is it just enhanced paving of bike lane and branded wayfinding? The photo of Indianapolis Cultural Trail makes it seem quite different.”

Following the "Under/Rail" charette, Office of Community Revitalization staff discussed with the Park Authority the possibility of adding a section to the Connectivity chapter to incorporate concepts for a linear park under the Metro rail.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: “My vision for parks in Tysons is...lots of active recreation and fields for kids and adults.”

“A goal of twenty new athletic fields serving Tysons...That is great, the sooner the better! Not, however at the expense of stream valleys and the cutting of those trees.”

“Use field-focused and “dark sky” lighting technology for urban recreational facilities in all districts.”

“Consolidate field space and minimize the building of diamond-only fields. Build multi-use, overlay fields instead.”

“The number and location of all required athletic fields (based on Tysons build-out) should be identified now and not later.”

“It is not acceptable to add three new field locations to Tysons West...We understood that the Tysons Plan Amendments would not be making site-specific recommendations for property from what is in the Comprehensive Plan, but inclusion of these fields certainly does make a site specific recommendation. Furthermore, the area adjacent to the Toll Road is planned for office. The office setback from Toll Road is 75 feet. This accommodates service areas, but not an athletic field.”

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: "My vision for parks in Tysons is...dog walking trails and dog park," "more playgrounds," "adult park facilities," and "splash pad or spray park for kids A MUST"

"Add a provision or suggestion for aquatic sports under Chapter VI (Recreational Facilities). If the Park Authority does not provide such facilities on their property, the Concept Plan should reference that swimming pools could be provided by an applicant and under certain circumstances used by the public by agreement."

"There will be an increased need for larger indoor pools that offer classes and programs, as well as lap swimming lanes. Already at a premium, indoor gymnasium space needs to be expanded and the addition of a "sportsplex" would be welcome. However, without commitments from developers, it is unlikely that these larger, more expensive facilities will get built. Without the identification of additional public recreational and community facilities, many Tysons residents will travel to McLean and Vienna."

CIVIC SPACES

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: "My vision for parks in Tysons is...open theater," "farmers markets and open air art shows," "open air entertainment," "bandstand for outdoor concerts," and "civic plazas that are obviously civic and don't feel like private property."

"Some of the current civic spaces should be incorporated into the common green spaces, creating larger more functional spaces that can serve residents, workers and visitors. There should be one larger civic space that serves as the 'town center,' which is easily accessible by the recreational trail loop, which in turn should be connected to development sites."

"I'm writing in favor of more community garden plots...Please include lots of them in your plans, as well as quiet space for outdoor relaxation and walks."

CULTURAL RESOURCES

"The master plan should include the history of the 'Tysons redevelopment' as part of a 'central park.' Consideration should also be given to providing interpretive signage throughout Tysons in order to cultivate a sense of history and place."

NATURAL RESOURCES

Visitors to the Open House meetings wrote the following: "My vision for parks in Tysons is... onsite composting," "edible landscaping and pocket restaurant gardens," "native fauna," and "duck pond."

"Nature deserves more space in Tysons!"

"Minimize impervious surface in the creation of each of the five park types."

"The use of stream valleys as passive, linear parks should be enhanced with the goal of providing a 'green belt' around Tysons at the lower density edges of Tysons. This may also help with creating a buffer for residents of Tysons along with the surrounding communities of McLean and Town of Vienna."

"I am extremely concerned about the plan to run an extension of Boone Boulevard in an alignment that hugs the parkland...this major 4+ lane roadway skirting the stream valley will cause negative aesthetic

and environmental (including runoff, litter, noise, and sight pollution) impacts that will be felt in both the local and extended ecosystem.”

“In approving road alignments, I urge Fairfax County to take into consideration the need to create some separation between parkland/RPA space and roadways, in order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the parks.”

MISCELLANEOUS

Some commenters requested further clarifying language to ensure readers will understand the Plan is conceptual.

One commenter wrote: “The Tysons Park System Master Plan should be more specific and detailed. Without the specifics, it is highly unlikely that the more costly recreational and park facilities will be built. Parks locations should be clearly shown on the map and it should be clear that parks are a requirement of redevelopment.”

The Park Authority received several comments pertaining to implementation, timing, and phasing of the park system.

Three commenters requested changes to the Tysons Park System Concept Plan that cannot be accommodated because the park system elements in question are included in the adopted Comprehensive Plan for Tysons.

The Park Authority received several requests to clarify the language in the Plan, add explanatory text to the Appendix and to correct errors/omissions on the conceptual park system maps.