

FCPA comments for Planning Commission Public Comment Meeting at 7:00 PM on Mar. 11, 2010

My name is Ken Quincy. I live at 8225 Bucknell Dr. I am speaking on behalf of the Fairfax County Park Authority as the Providence District representative on the Park Authority Board.

In the years and months leading up to the creation of the Tysons vision and the draft plan now before you, the concepts of parks and open green space has evolved.

In the public workshops and meetings with community groups, we heard loud and clear that creating public open space and urban parks in the new Tysons should be a priority. We heard that residents of the new Tysons should have access within Tysons to parks and recreation facilities. We heard many fears that growth in Tysons would impact the quality of life in surrounding communities and overwhelm the demand at existing recreation facilities, especially athletic fields. We heard that the creation of a diverse park network in the new Tysons that places parks near activity and resident centers would attract a wide range of residents in the new Tysons.

The Park Authority acted on what it heard.

- \* An urban parkland standard based on extensive research was adopted by the Park Authority and has been used to plan the urban parks network in the new Tysons as well as other urbanizing areas in the County.
- \* An intra-agency staff group also created an Urban Parks Framework to further guide public and private entities in urban design elements and park types. This document was shared with many stakeholders who commended it.
- \* Participation with the Tysons task force reinforced the importance of urban parks in the new Tysons.
- \* Extensive demographic analysis and coordination with the Department of Community and Recreation Services resulted in adopting a goal of 20 new full service athletic fields to serve the growth in Tysons.

\* Recommendations were added to the draft district Plan text to identify potential locations for some of these new athletic fields in the New Tysons.

\* Refinements to the draft plan were informed by the demonstration project to insure the park vision is implemented as development occurs.

The environmental stewardship section of the Plan has evolved to incorporate these efforts and input received. The proposed park-related text for the new Tysons is proactive and requires an investment by both public and private entities through the provision of land and building of needed athletic facilities.

The benefits of implementing the park vision for Tysons through growth and development contributions are many. The implementation through growth will ensure that parks, open green space and recreation facilities are in place as growth occurs. The inclusion of urban parks and active recreation facilities within the proposed development will help Tysons achieve its vision for a high quality of life that is well rounded, healthy, and safe and will add to Tysons' economic appeal and competitiveness.

Transit oriented development is the growth trend in most suburban areas of the region. Each of these suburban areas has a similar model and will be competing for residents, businesses and consumers. One notable way Tysons can distinguish itself from the others is by offering a quality park system, but only if the vision and plan are implemented and land is set aside for this purpose

The proposed Plan text is strong because we have heard and responded to a commitment to parks in the new Tysons. The Plan text lays the groundwork for you as decision makers to ensure the creation of a unique quality urban park system in the new Tysons.

On behalf of the Park Authority Board, I urge you to accept the park related text as proposed. Thank you for your time and efforts in this regard.