

# Langley Fork Park

## Park Master Plan Revision

Public Information Meeting, October 13, 2011  
Franklin Sherman Elementary School

### Meeting Summary

A Public Information Meeting was held on the evening of October 13, 2011 for the purpose of increasing public awareness of the project and the park master plan revision process as well as to invite public comment and input toward the park's future design.

### Introductions and Opening Remarks

#### In attendance:

John Foust Supervisor, Dranesville District  
Kevin Fay Park Authority Board, Dranesville District

#### Park Authority Staff

John Dargle Director, Fairfax County Park Authority  
Dave Bowden Director, Planning and Development Division (PDD)  
Sandy Stallman Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD  
Gayle Hooper Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD  
Ed Busenlehner Manager, Area 1 Operations  
Julie Cline Manager, Land Acquisition and Management Branch

#### National Park Service

Do' ie Marshall Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway  
Ben Helwig Park Ranger, George Washington Memorial Parkway

#### Louis Berger Group

Julia Yuen Senior Environmental Scientist

### Staff Presentation

#### Overview

Sandy Stallman provided an outline of the meeting agenda as well as an overview of Fairfax County Park Authority's Park Master Plan process.

#### Site Conditions and Background

Gayle Hooper, Project Manager for the Langley Fork Park Master Plan Revision, provided a brief history of the property, some local context and description of the site. The presentation briefly touched on the potential land exchange with the National Park Service and the Environmental Assessment process.

#### Public Comments:

After the staff presentation, a period of open discussion was provided to allow those in attendance to share their thoughts and suggestions for Langley Fork Park. A summary of the suggestions and concerns is provided below.

- o Question was raised regarding how long the land exchange process might take to complete?
  - It is anticipated that the land exchange can be completed by the end of 2012.
- o The question was asked as to why the Environmental Assessment is necessary?
  - This is a procedure that is required of the National Park Service by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for any significant change of federally-owned parkland.
- o Question was raised as to how and when the cultural resources on the site will be evaluated?
  - The Park Authority has contracted the Louis Berger Group to perform an archaeological assessment of the property which will likely occur over the next three months.
- o A property owner who lives adjacent to Clemyjontri Park voiced opposition to any additional development at Langley Fork Park, particularly athletic fields and lighting. He expressed concern regarding the increased traffic, noise and general impacts from the Clemyjontri Park and felt that the Clemyjontri Park had been forced on the community. His recommendation is that NPS retain ownership of the site and keep "as is".
- o A property owner who lives adjacent to Langley Fork Park voiced his support for more opportunities to provide healthy activities for children. He has lived in McLean for 12 years, has three children and uses the park for walking opportunities. He recommended the Park Authority seek to serve the larger purpose of the community as a whole.
- o Question was raised as to whether the Park Authority analyzes the number of homes that may be impacted by a project versus the number of children that might be served in the Planning District.
  - The Park Authority seeks to provide a balanced approach in analyzing the broader community need in context to the park's surroundings.
- o An attendee commented that, growing up in the 1980's, he appreciated having a place to play in the neighborhood. He has not experienced a traffic problem related to Clemyjontri. He has used the park for running and not experienced any conflict with the use of the athletic fields. There are beautiful trails that extend back into the woods. He is in favor of the land transfer and future enhancement of the park.
- o A representative from McLean Youth Athletics stated that improving the fields would help a lot with the demand for practice and game play. He also supports consideration of an indoor sports facility such as a field house.
- o Question was raised regarding how any site development might be funded.
  - Park development is typically financed through general obligation bonds which are considered about every four years. No specific funding is designated for development of Langley Fork Park at this point in time but the possibility exists to partner with user groups or

to seek proffer commitments with area development in addition to bond funding.

- o Question was raised if there would be access to proffer funds in conjunction with the Tysons development.
  - Although there may be the opportunity to have proffer commitments from Tysons development, the primary focus is that Tysons development will provide athletic facilities within the Tysons area.
- o A student from Oakcrest School recommended that improvements be made to the existing fields to enhance their safety. Some conditions were noted as dangerous to players.
- o Another attendee supported the need for additional athletic fields, noting the struggle to find places for kids to play sports in proximity to their home.
- o A long-time McLean resident noted the lack of lighted fields to serve the area's need.
- o Concern was voiced regarding the planning process. A small group of opposition should not derail the process, ignoring the more pressing needs of the broader community.
- o Question was raised as to what other parks are being considered for development of athletic fields.
  - A task force appointed by Supervisor Foust is currently evaluating uses for Salona Park. Upgrades to a small field are proposed next to the police station.
- o Several additional questions regarding athletic fields at other McLean area parks were posed to Supervisor Foust; however, they did not relate directly to the development of Langley Fork Park.