

# LANGLEY FORK PARK MASTER PLAN REVISION

PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING, OCTOBER 17, 2013  
FRANKLIN SHERMAN ELEMENTARY

A Public Comment Meeting was held on the evening of October 17, 2013 to present the draft master plan revision for Langley Fork Park to the community. The public was then invited to share their comments on the proposed park plan.

## INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS

John Foust	Dranesville District Supervisor
Rip Sullivan	Park Authority Board, Dranesville District
Cindy Messinger	Park Authority Acting Director
Sandy Stallman	Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Gayle Hooper	Project Manager, Park Planning Branch, PDD
Ed Busenlehner	Manager, Park Authority Area 1 Management
Kristen Sinclair	Senior Natural Resource Specialist, Resource Management Division
Brian Williams	Project Coordinator, Land Acquisition and Management Branch
Thomas Sheffer	Planner, National Park Service

## STAFF PRESENTATION

### Overview

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

### Background and Conceptual Development Plan

Gayle Hooper provided background on Langley Fork Park and presented the elements of the draft master plan.

[Click here to view the presentation](#)

## COMMENTS

### Speaker 1

- Neighbor and active user of the park
- Strongly supports the proposed athletic fields and the field lighting
- This will serve the area's youth and adults
- Likes the dog park

- The plan may introduce more traffic and noise – but it's better to have our children in the parks than in front of computer games

## **Speaker 2**

### **Representing McLean Youth Athletics**

- MYA is a coordinating voice and provides organizational support for youth athletics in the McLean area through promotion of athletics, educational programs, college scholarship programs
- The proposed plan builds on and upgrades the existing park
- MYA fully endorses the plan
- The construction of new fields is critical to support all sports
- The addition of the synthetic turf and lights will provide additional capacity
- The fields at Salona Park are needed as well
- McLean Youth Track requests that a running track be added to the plan, and this is supported by MYA
- The addition of the pavilions, dog park, trails, and fitness zone makes a true multi-use facility for the entire community.
- MYA also endorses the increased parking and additional entrances

## **Speaker 3**

### **Representing McLean Youth Track / McLean Youth Athletics**

- The plan is well-thought out but there is a glaring omission of a track
- The track can be put around the existing field
- The track can be utilized by athletes or family members

## **Speaker 4**

- Lives west of Langley Fork Park
- Sounds from the high school and the park are audible but this is "happy noise"
- Would request that information be added to the plan related to noise pollution
- The addition of lights will allow for more games during the day and more weeks throughout the year
- Very concerned about traffic congestion. Clemyjontri Park already causes a problem.
- Hopes there will be seating at the fields as well.

## **Speaker 5**

### **Representing Fairfax Adult Softball**

- FAS is happy about the development
- Dranesville is drastically underserved for fields for adult athletics
- Current co-ed league often needs to turn people away due to lack of playing space

- The preference would be to keep people (and their tax dollars) here
- This may become more of an issue with the Tysons development
- FAS offers funding support for the synthetic turf surfaces and lighting

#### **Speaker 6**

##### **Representing McLean Youth Soccer**

- More than 3,000 youth registered participants with McLean Youth Soccer
- Represent the largest organized sports organization in McLean
- Continued growth in sports and need to expand schools in our community have created a shortage of fields
- Skills learned on the soccer field can be transformed into skills for life – teamwork, discipline, respect, communication, focus on self-improvement
- Improvements to Langley Fork will help meet the needs of the community for all sports
- MYS is sensitive to the concerns of the community regarding lights and noise but feels that with careful planning, the fields can be a positive addition to the neighborhood.

#### **Speaker 7**

##### **Representing McLean Youth Lacrosse**

- MYL supports the master plan
- Lacrosse is now a year-round sport with 700 kids in the spring and 600 in the fall
- These improvements are vital to their program
- Langley Fork represents half of the fields they can use.

#### **Speaker 8**

##### **Representing McLean Youth Soccer**

- Actively involved in field development
- MYS motto “A place for every child to play” – offering a range of programs from house leagues to competitive travel teams
- Have seen a tremendous loss of fields (8 fields out of 28) largely as a result of expansion of schools
- 3-4 teams must practice on one field at a time
- The grass fields are greatly overused
- Synthetic turf offers a great advantage
- This really is for kids to come in the future

#### **Speaker 9**

- This is not an issue about providing parks – this is primarily about land use. Is this use appropriate for the site?

- A major flaw with the plan is the on-site circulation
- The trips generated by this site will dwarf the impact of Clemyjontri
- Georgetown Pike is a scenic by-way
- This use is too intense for this site

#### **Speaker 10**

- A neighbor to the west
- Concerned about safety issues and trash issues
- Not certain that the neighbors are ready for this plan
- Would like to stop this process

#### **Speaker 11**

- Supports the plan
- Great opportunity for the community and the county as a whole to address a lack of field space for our use
- Glad to see the proposed upgrade to the level of the fields
- Would love to see a track here as well
- Hopes that the process is not derailed by special interest groups who don't want to see the plan advance

#### **Speaker 12**

- Thrilled to see the dog park included
- Would like to see some trees saved in the dog park area for shade for the dogs
- Wants a greater buffer between the athletic fields and the dog park

#### **Speaker 13**

- Neighbor to the west of the park
- Two of the anchor properties in the overlay district
- In general, is supportive of the plan
- Supports the addition of a track
- Has concerns regarding lighting, would like additional details
- Lighting will generate additional traffic
- Concerned about noise from the dog park
- The biggest issue is traffic, based on the impact of Clemyjontri
- Concerned about the ability to safely cross Georgetown Pike to Clemyjontri
- Balance countywide need with the interests of the neighbors

#### **Speaker 14**

##### **Representing McLean Lacrosse**

- Is supportive of the plan

- The current fields conditions are dreadful; there is no water to serve the site
- We need to get this done
- Is concerned about traffic but feels it can be addressed

### **Speaker 15**

#### **Representing McLean Track**

- Currently share track around a field with 2-3 other teams
- Supports the addition of a running track
- Track athletes need a proper facility to train effectively
- This group had 16 athletes in the junior Olympics last spring

### **Speaker 16**

- Supports the establishment of a dog park with the plan
- Military Road is a long way to go
- Many dog owners in McLean are waiting for such a facility

### **Speaker 17**

- Completely in favor of these fields
- We absolutely need a track and a dog park
- Concerned regarding the ingress-egress due to traffic concerns
- Build some green between fields and Evermay, shift the layout back

### **Speaker 18**

- Annandale resident but has dog walking business in McLean
- Supports the dog park
- Clients want their dogs taken to a dog park rather than just walked
- Move the dog park into the center of the park for greater separation from the athletic fields

## **QUESTIONS**

- How late will the lighting stay on?
  - The latest would be until 11:00; however, our lighting system will only turn the lights on when in use.
  - Look at Lewinsville Park for an example of our current lighting standard.
  - Games are scheduled until 11:00 with egress lights for the next 10 minutes
- Has a formal traffic study been done?
  - This will occur at the engineering phase
- What is the estimate for completion of the planning process

- 30 day comment period
  - EA plan review starting in December
  - 30 day public comment period
  - Full report will be completed and reviewed
  - About 6 months after the EA meeting
  - Likely to our board for approval in the spring
- Is there a cost estimate for the construction?
  - Not at this point as we are still just at the planning stage
- Does the EA impact if NPS will turn the land over to the county?
  - Yes, the EA is necessary for NPS to make a judgment if the land exchange is in keeping with their mission
  - There will be additional time to draft the land exchange agreement, develop conservation easements, etc.
- What are the sizes of the diamond fields?
  - 250' outfield
  - 300' outfield
  - 310'/380' outfield
  - Current assumption is that these fields will be constructed with synthetic turf and have options for variable base pad spacing
- Are there lights allowed on the western diamonds?
  - No because they are within the historic overlay district
- What sewer would be used?
  - A new line would need to be constructed but this has not been engineered yet
- Are there traffic controls planned for the crossing of Georgetown Pike to Clemyjontri?
  - This would be worked out with VDOT as we get into more detailed engineering and design
- Will the synthetic fields be set up to allow versatility of the large diamond to have flexible base pads?
  - It is the intent to have this type of flexibility. FCPA is continually investigating models.
- How quickly can this be accomplished?
  - There are many steps that need to be accomplished, including funding, design and engineering, before construction can actually begin, the timing of which are unpredictable at this point in time.