

# Bluemont Civic Association

*Representing Neighborhoods in and around Arlington Traditional School, Lacey Woods Park, Bon Air, Fields Park, Balls Crossing, West Ballston, and all along the former Bluemont Division of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad*

P.O. Box 5134 Arlington, Virginia 22205  
[www.bluemontcivic.org](http://www.bluemontcivic.org)

30 October 2014

The Honorable Jay Fisette  
Chair, Arlington County Board  
2100 Clarendon Blvd, Suite 300  
Arlington VA 22201

Subject: Comments on the Public Land Site Evaluation Guidelines

Dear Chair Fisette:

The Bluemont Civic Association (BCA) appreciates having the opportunity to offer comments on the Public Land Site Evaluation Guidelines. This issue was discussed at the October 22, 2014 meeting, and while members recognize the importance of addressing the issues of crowding in schools and the need for affordable housing, BCA members want to reiterate strong support for the preservation of our parks and green space.

While we did not have adequate time to discuss specific elements of the proposed guidelines, below are some of the key comments from the Bluemont Neighborhood Conservation Plan (NCP) – 2013 Update (accepted by County Board December 2013) that emphasize Bluemont residents' views on preservation of public parks and green space:

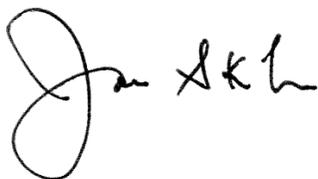
1. "When the BCA polled residents about what they liked most about the neighborhood, the most common responses were the neighborhood's convenience to Washington, DC., its closeness to public transportation, and its closeness to parks and recreational areas." Bluemont (NCP) p. 4.
2. "Bluemont residents put a high value on parks and open space. Over two-thirds of respondents (68.9%) support the purchase of properties as they become available in order to enlarge the amount of park and open space." Bluemont NCP p. 56.
3. "**Recommendation VIII-2:** As population density and development continues to increase, Bluemont residents urge the County to seek additional opportunities for land acquisition and easements to expand existing parks and open space." Bluemont NCP p. 77.
4. "**Recommendation VIII-6:** Prior to embarking on any future renovations or construction projects, the County should work to ensure that sensitive natural resources are not further damaged or compromised." Bluemont NCP p. 78.

These statements demonstrate the high value our citizens place on green space, parks and natural areas. While none of these resources within BCA's boundaries currently appear to be under threat of being utilized for some other purpose, BCA has stood in solidarity with other civic associations and neighborhoods in Arlington whose parks, green space and/or natural areas are under threat. An example of such solidarity is the following resolution BCA members passed on April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014:

"The Bluemont Civic Association supports the preservation of increasingly scarce low-density recreation opportunities and open space and green space in Arlington County. In this same spirit, the BCA also supports the highly used and versatile Lubber Run-Community Center and the preservation of the low-density open and green space that surrounds it. Therefore, the BCA supports both the March 19, 2014 and April 9, 2014 Resolutions and the January 30, 2014 Vision Statement of the Arlington Forest Citizens Association as they pertain to the Lubber Run Community Center and the surrounding green and outdoor recreation space."

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonn S. K. Lau". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "J" and a cursive "S. K. Lau".

Jonn S. K. Lau, President  
Bluemont Civic Association

cc: Members, Arlington County Board  
Barbara Donnellan, Arlington County Manager