

*Draft, Peter Harnik, April 14, 2023*

## **Letter Concerning Quincy Park**

April 18, 2023

Dear County Board members:

We are writing to you today about Quincy Park, one of the most important park spaces in Arlington County and a space that is under pressure from various proposed uses and changes.

***The Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission believes that Quincy Park needs a master planning process undertaken on an expedited basis.***

***Moreover, the Arlington County Parks and Recreation Commission recommends that no significant physical, administrative, or contractual changes be made to Quincy Park until such a master plan is completed.***

The reasons for our particular interest in Quincy Park include that it is one of the largest flat, non-campus, non-stream valley parks in the county; that it is home to the Arlington Central Library; that it is served by a Metrorail station and is located in an eminently walkable and bikeable neighborhood; that it is in close proximity to more than 1,000 residents, most of whom live in apartments without any green space of their own for walking, sitting and socializing; that it is located near the Ballston district's significant population of office workers who can eat lunch or otherwise benefit from casual use of the facility.

We are concerned that Quincy Park's numerous athletic facilities have been created over a period of many years on an ad-hoc basis without a park masterplan that considers all the needs and desires of the surrounding community and Arlington as a whole; and that the Park's perimeter sidewalks and internal walking paths are poorly designed and maintained; and that there are numerous disparate proposals by private entities and government agencies to add or modify structures and uses in Quincy Park.

Such a planning process could, potentially:

- Redesign the walking trail system and include a multitude of attractive, comfortable benches and a coordinated lighting system of iconic, human-scale stanchions.
- Highlight the park's outstanding existing trees and coordinate an artful planting of new forested areas.
- Include a high-quality horticultural garden and some iconic artworks.
- Construct a significant water feature, such as a pond crossed by a bridge.
- Reduce the number and size of certain single-use playing fields and courts.
- Initiate a county-wide search for replacement fields and courts.
- Initiate a county-wide search for a replacement location for the recycling station.
- Reduce the amount of space devoted to free automobile parking within the park.

Thank you very much.

Shruti Kuppa, Chair, PRC