

## **ENVIRONMENT, PARKS, & RECREATION**

**Co-Chairs: Frank Crandall, 703-356-5168, [crandall.frank@nmnh.si.edu](mailto:crandall.frank@nmnh.si.edu)**

**Paul L. Wieland, 703-821-0981, [plwieland@earthlink.net](mailto:plwieland@earthlink.net)**

**Meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Community Center**

A recent proposal by the Dranesville member of the Park Authority Board and a few Park Authority staff to force McLean Day to be held elsewhere than at Lewinsville Park has been evaluated by our committee and found to be contrary to the best interests of the approximately 11,000 citizens who participate in McLean Day events each year.

The initial proposal to hold McLean Day at McLean Central Park was found to be unworkable for several reasons. No substantive reasons have been brought forward to justify withholding continued Park Authority permission for conducting McLean Day at Lewinsville Park. A resolution of opposition to this proposal was prepared for MCA Board approval and was subsequently distributed to the Park Authority, the Board of Supervisors, and the McLean Community Center Governing Board. The EP&R Committee will continue to pursue this matter.

In addition, the EP&R Committee has recently done extensive work on several important cases:

The Glen Haven Farms Homeowners Association (HOA) asked us to assist them in working with the developer of an 18+ acre parcel immediately adjacent to their community. The end result was preservation of a vegetated buffer between the two communities, greatly improved stormwater management (SWM), retention of a natural pond, shortening of the main access road, and adoption of significant low impact development (LID) solutions. This case is significant because it demonstrates the validity and usefulness of LID techniques in current and future development.

The Lewinsville Coalition asked us to assist them in evaluating a stormwater management plan proposed by the developer of the 25.5 acre Spring Hill Farm site that would have been a major encroachment into the resource protection area (RPA) buffer along Bull Neck Run. Our committee found the proposed exception to the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance to be unnecessary and prepared an MCA resolution to this effect and presented testimony at the Exception Review Committee (ERC) public hearing. The ERC denied the developers request on exactly the grounds emphasized in our resolution and testimony and rejected the County staff report that recommended approval. This was a "precedent" case and the ERC emphasized that they had no intention of permitting a precedent that would undercut the intent of the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance. Thus, MCA has rendered a County-wide service in pursuing this case to a successful conclusion.