

McLEAN CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF PARK BOND PRIORITIES

The following represents the assessment of priorities for Park Bond support of acquisition of parkland and development of park facilities in the greater McLean area. These two items are listed as **County-wide priorities** because they provide benefits to all citizens of Fairfax County **and should be funded as such**. The items are listed in order of importance.

It should be remembered that the recent Park Authority Needs Assessment Survey and local focus groups across the County showed overwhelming County-wide support and McLean-wide support for land acquisition as the top priority, with passive recreation opportunities as the next leading priority. The priorities delineated below clearly reflect recognition of these expressions of the public will regarding our park system and its funding.

Land Acquisition

- Salona property. Purchase of the Salona property should be given the highest priority and partially funded through the Park Bond issue. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the Conservation Fund have a “bargain sale” purchase option on the 44.3 acre Salona property to acquire it as parkland. There may be significant federal and state funding that can offset the purchase price. The appraised value of this property is over \$23 million, and the option, which can be turned over to the County, is to buy this land for \$15.9 million. The owners are willing to help finance the purchase over a number of years. Thus, the County could acquire this unique property for an outlay of \$1 to \$1.5 million per year over the next 10 to 15 years. This is a rare opportunity to preserve a site with a uniquely rich and important history, which is also one of the largest currently available tracts of land inside the beltway.

Facilities Development

- Clemyjontri Park. This park was a generous gift to the Park Authority by Mrs. Adele Liebowitz of 18+ acres of prime level land. Part of the deed of gift stipulates that much of it is to be developed with facilities usable by handicapped children. Normally a development of this type requires several years in the planning and construction phase. However, Mrs. Liebowitz, who is elderly, wished to have the schedule compressed so she could see it come to fruition in the relatively near future. Thus, the deed of gift further stipulates that these development activities must commence by the end of the first quarter of 2005 or the gift is null and void and the land reverts to Mrs. Liebowitz. In order to

proceed with the initial planning activities, the Park Authority had to “borrow” funds from other ongoing projects, notably the Pimmit Run Trail. Full funding for the required development activities at Clemyjontri and replacement of the funds that were “borrowed” from other priority projects is the second highest priority.