

TO: Yorktown Civic Association Members

FROM: David Haring

RE: Proposal to use Chestnut Hills Park for YHS construction parking

DATE: March 15, 2008

The word on this is spreading fast, but I wanted to get this out to our civic association members to clarify and confirm what is being proposed, and to ask you to contact the officials listed below to help kill this plan.

The school system has dropped a fairly big bomb on our neighborhood. At meetings of the Yorktown and Williamsburg PTAs this week, Arlington school officials confirmed that they intend to proceed with plans to place all of the construction worker parking (80 to 100 vehicles) within Chestnut Hills Park, our neighborhood childrens' park on Harrison Street. Their intention is to use this space for construction parking during the entire 55 month duration of the phased high school renovation project, which is scheduled to start when school lets out this June.

While APS would NOT remove the playground equipment in the park, their plans are to gravel over and fence in all of the open green space that is part of the park's south end.

Chestnut Hills is now the most popular and heavily used childrens' park in all of Arlington County, and having non-programmed open green space has clearly contributed to the park's success. This plan would clearly destroy the safety and appearance of the park.

Furthermore, the county has offered excess parking space in the Ballston garage for this purpose, but the school system wants to use Chestnut Hills instead "because it is more convenient".

So far, the Superintendent and his staff appear to be making this move without formal approval by the School Board, so I am hopeful we still have a chance to stop it. I'm being told that the County Board would also have to sign off on the plan, which they haven't yet done. The main thing is to have as many people contact these officials as soon as possible to and urge them to stop the plan to use any part of the Chestnut Hills childrens' park for construction worker parking.

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Thanks!  
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