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Subject: Support for Fall Line alignment in Bryan Park
Date: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 8:44:31 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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Chairman Poole,

I am writing a simple message of support for the alignment of the Fall Line in Bryan Park. Parks, DPW, and Timmons have done a great job of hearing the resident concerns about tree removal and crafted an optimal alignment that minimizes tree impacts.

I do also want to specifically mention the alignment between the soccer fields and the adjacent parking lot. The Fall Line will be a signature, world-class trail that connects people for transportation to, within, and through Bryan Park. It should be prominently visible and aligned to high volume areas to encourage high use and trail awareness. As aligned, it will create a designated off-road pedestrian way that currently does not exist and has been in high demand by the Friends of Bryan Park and park users for at least a decade. It should remain aligned as presented and not hidden along the periphery within the park.

I recall in June of 2021, Sports Backers led a coordinated walk along various segments of the trail. Senator Tim Kaine and Anne Holton joined a group of about twenty of us (and Jay Paul got some pictures for the RTD), and as we headed north through the Bellevue entrance, we happened upon Mayor Stoney who was doing COVID education at the Big Market. We snapped the following photo. As we proceeded north, drivers honked and yelled as we walked along the road, presumably unaware of who was in our group. People deserve a dignified place to walk along the road between the Bellevue entrance, along the soccer fields, toward the camp house, and past Shelter 1 on the way out of the park to the north.

There may be concern of user conflicts on the trail as aligned because of heavy use. Heavy use is a good thing. Stray balls are unlikely to be a problem and can certainly be mitigated at a future date with little effort. As we have seen in places like the Custis Trail in NOVA, trails like this with heavy use can co-exist with athletic fields, and cyclists will understand the cues within the park to slow and merge as appropriate. And cyclists who want to move quickly will still have access to the road if they need to get around heavy pedestrian use.



Thanks for your consideration.

Brantley Tyndall
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