The Neighborhood Environment

Highlights on the environment in the neighborhood surrounding Williamsburg Middle School and Discovery Elementary School

- Rock Spring neighborhood has streams and an abundance of trees and foliage that provide habitat and food for wildlife, and contribute to cleaning the air. It is bordered on the western edge by Franklin Park in McLean. Franklin Park is composed of large residential lots that have a forest and garden-like character and contribute to the healthy ecosystem of our area.

- The original design for the environmentally-oriented Discovery School called for grass fields and preservation of the forest line along the edge of the property line. The grass fields were replaced with artificial turf and there will be additional loss of green space in the “Dell” to accommodate new trailers. This significantly reduces the green space, with its natural air-cleaning abilities and habitat for wildlife.

- There are over 50 species of healthy wildlife in the area, some nocturnal, including bats which are a protected species in Virginia. This is consistent with a forest-like environment. One bird species that does not live here and is indicative of an urban environment is the pigeon. They do live in the commercially zoned area about a mile away.

- Due to dark nights, the wildlife lives with a natural day/night cycle that is conducive to normal waking and sleeping patterns and overall good health. The artificial night lighting in the neighborhood is low and not enough to disrupt the natural cycle. As a result, all residents enjoy peaceful, quiet nights. Stadium lighting would be 20-30 times brighter than streetlights.

- Currently, the noise levels after dark are generally well below the legal maximum. With the exception of nighttime school events, the traffic is light except for school events, keeping the usual level of noise minimal and carbon emissions low.

Please add any observations you may have on the environment in the neighborhood: