

A Brief History of the Lamond Property/Gilbert S. McCutcheon Park

For over 60 years, the Slater Lamond Family owned the 18-acre property, building their home in 1939 and occupying the house until 1986. In 1998, Harris Development company notified Villamay (VM) residents that they had entered into a preliminary agreement with the Lamond family to clear-cut the trees and excavate the land with the intent to build 32 large homes on the site. A single access point was to be via a spur cut in from Burtonwood Drive. Responding to community concerns, Mt. Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland, called a public meeting on 18 August 1998. Over 250 Mt. Vernon area residents attended. During the meeting, Gerry appointed Eleanor Quigley of Wellington Heights as Chair of a Lamond Small Task Force and VM resident Steve Markle as Vice-Chair. The group was charged "To oversee construction plans as they are submitted for review in order to hold 'developer's feet to the fire.'" In August 1999 Supervisor Hyland established the Lamond Community Task Force to develop a land use plan for the property, should it be acquired as parkland. In conjunction with county representatives, a core team of Villamay Community Association (VCA) members, neighbors from surrounding communities, business, and athletic interests, crafted the master development plan. Ultimately benefitting from the successful passage of a bond referendum, the county acquired the property in February 2000 from the Lamond family for approximately \$4.6M, designating the resource as a Community Park. In May 2012 it was renamed Gil McCutcheon Park in honor of an ardent supporter and long serving member of the FCPA. VCA neighbors serving on the Lamond Small Task Force and the Lamond Community Task Force included: Helen Caplinger, Betty Fees, Patricia Markle, George Pratt, Lee Williams and Sam Wood.

During the ensuing years, the VCA has worked closely with the FCPA to make the park accessible to all. Our neighborhood led the effort to raise the \$41,500 for construction of the playground, obtaining matching funds from a FCPA grant on two separate occasions. With FCPA approval, we laid out an extensive trail system for hikers, cut trails, and continue to maintain them to this day. To date, we have provided over 5,900 person-hours of volunteer labor to maintain the area and it has benefitted from improvements associated with nine Eagle Scout Projects, one Girl Scout Gold Award Project, and many other youth service projects. Periodic park work days are scheduled and all comers are welcome to lend a hand! The VCA was honored with the prestigious 2017 FCPA Elly Doyle Award for our collective volunteer efforts in the park.

The Park Master Plan includes a plan for the house to be rented for events such as wedding receptions, private functions, and similar activities. Unfortunately, the County is currently unable to allocate funds for making the house comply with American with Disabilities Act. Additionally, the access road must be improved to meet emergency access requirements (ladder fire trucks specifically). Until these requirements are satisfied the park remains generally primarily pedestrian access only.

Whether you enjoy leisurely walks along the trails, playing with your family at the playground, attending the annual VCA Labor Day picnic or the Easter Egg Hunt, or appreciate the benefits of less congestion and green space, this park is an invaluable resource to our neighborhood that needs your support.

A Chronology of Important Events

Abbreviations:	<table border="0"> <tr> <td style="padding-right: 20px;">FCPA</td> <td>Fairfax County Park Authority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MVCCA</td> <td>Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MVGC</td> <td>Mt. Vernon Government Center</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SDD</td> <td>Site Development Division, Fairfax County</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VCA</td> <td>Villamay Community Association</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WWS</td> <td>Walt Whitman School</td> </tr> </table>	FCPA	Fairfax County Park Authority	MVCCA	Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations	MVGC	Mt. Vernon Government Center	SDD	Site Development Division, Fairfax County	VCA	Villamay Community Association	WWS	Walt Whitman School
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1939	Slater and Jaquelin Lamond acquire the 18-acre property												
1940	House is completed.												
1975	Fairfax County Comprehensive Development Plan identifies 18-acre Lamond tract for “parkland acquisition.”												
March 25, 1997	Attorney for Michael Harris, developer, telephones Eleanor Quigley, President, Wellington Heights Citizens Association. He announces plans to construct “up to 50 homes” and requests community cooperation in re-zoning from R-2 (2 houses/acre) to R-3 (3 houses/acre) in order to save trees.												
April 13, 1997	Wellington Heights residents meet to discuss potential development of Lamond. Collaboration begins with Villamay, Planning and Zoning Committee of MVCCA, Gerry Hyland, Gil McCutcheon, and Fairfax Land Preservation Trust. Resolution passed opposing rezoning, opposing exits onto Morningside Lane, and requesting that FCPA acquire it as park.												
July 7, 1997	Planning and Zoning Committee of MVCCA passes resolution opposing rezoning.												
July 23, 1997	MVCCA passes resolution opposing rezoning the property and urging acquisition of Lamond by FCPA.												
March 24, 1998	FCPA hosts public meeting to shape future park acquisition, renovation, and development. Eleanor Quigley speaks in behalf of Lamond tract.												

July 30, 1998 Residents whose homes back-up to the Lamond tract receive notification that they have 30 days to comment on plans for the imminent building of 33 homes.

Aug. 18, 1998 Over 250 people attend 1st community meeting on Lamond at MVGC. Lamond Small Task Force established by Supervisor Gerry Hyland. Task Force consists of 16 people from Marlan Forest, Villamay, and Wellington Heights. They meet monthly to ensure that any development, should it take place, is based on accurate information about soils reports, traffic flow and safety. Eleanor Quigley is Chair Steve Markle is Vice Chair.

Sept. 8, 1998 Approximately 150 people attend 2nd community meeting on Lamond, hosted by Gerry Hyland, at Walt Whitman School. Hyland announces that developer's Preliminary Plan has been rejected by the Site Development Division (SDD) of Fairfax County.

Sept. 20, 1998 Lamond Task Force submits questions to SDD.

Oct. 1, 1998 Developer re-submits the Preliminary Plan to SDD.

Oct. 28, 1998 SDD responds to questions of Lamond Task Force.

Oct. 29, 1998 SDD approves developer's Preliminary Plan for development of Lamond.

Nov. 3, 1998 County voters approve the 1998 park bond referendum.

Nov. 18, 1998 Approximately 140 people attend 3rd community meeting about Lamond, hosted by Gerry Hyland at WWS. Possibility of land swap discussed.

Jan. 13, 1999 FCPA Board votes to pursue acquisition of the tract "as park land by gift, purchase, eminent domain or otherwise."

Jan. 27, 1999 MVCCA passes resolution recommending that construction access to Lamond be limited to Ft. Hunt Road.

April 5, 1999 FCPA files papers in Fairfax County Circuit Court "to acquire it for public park purposes through eminent domain."

July 14, 1999 FCPA Board authorizes planning to begin for Lamond as parkland.

Aug. 23, 1999 1st meeting of the Community Planning Group at MVGC. Lamond Community Task Force is established by Gerry Hyland to propose

a land use plan should the property be acquired.

- Dec. 6, 1999 Lamond Property Task Force in conjunction with FCPA Staffers (Joe Sicenavage, Todd Bolton and Gil McCutcheon) complete the "LAMOND COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS." The recommendations are accepted by Gerry Hyland at a meeting held at the Mt Vernon Government Center Building.
- Jan. 26, 2000 The Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations passes a resolution endorsing the "LAMOND COMMUNITY TASK FORCE MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS."
- Feb. 4, 2000 Fairfax County acquires the Lamond Property for \$4.6M, avoiding eminent domain hearings scheduled for mid March 2000 in Fairfax County Court.
- April 4, 2000 The Lamond family completes vacating the property.
- May 5, 2000 FCPA Staff and VCA mark location for trails
- May 13, 2000 First of many community workdays to develop trails, remove rubbish and invasive species
- Sep. 14, 2001 VCA initiates fund raising effort for Playground
- Feb. 6, 2002 VCA officially signs "Adopt-A-Park" Agreement with FCPA Director of Park Operations
- July 14, 2003 VCA notified that Two FCPA Mastenbrook Grants totaling \$17,000 approved for the VCA proposed Playground
- May 15, 2004 Playground officially opened. Final cost approximately \$39,300 of which \$22,300 raised from 73 VCA families and 2 businesses.
- May 12, 2012 Lamond Park renamed Gilbert S. McCutcheon Park
- May 1, 2013 Invasive Management Area established with VCA Community Park Committee Chair as Coordinator
- Aug. 2, 2017 VCA receives 2017 Elly Doyle Park Service Award