

July 11, 2017

Memorial Plaque Request: To honor Dennis Strickland who died in January 2015.

Sponsor: Adrien Strickland

Proposed Location: Barcroft Park adjacent to Four Mile Run Trail (Attachment I).

Proposed Plaque Inscription:

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks." John Muir
In Memory of Dennis Strickland 1950 - 2015

Significant Contribution to the Community: See letter below.

Community Support: Letter of support from Claremont Citizens Association (Attachment II)

Adrien Strickland, MD
519 Sterling Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37405

September 20, 2016

Diane G. Probus, Associate Planner
Department of Parks and Recreation
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 414
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Ms. Probus –

I am writing to request placement of a memorial bench in Barcroft Park, in honor of my father, Dennis Strickland. He passed away in his home in Arlington on January 29, 2015, at the age of 64, just a few months after receiving an unexpected diagnosis of Glioblastoma Multiforme (a rare and aggressive brain cancer).

My father was a long-time resident of Arlington County, and lived on 12th Road South at the time of his diagnosis and death. One of his favorite places to spend time was Barcroft Park. Until his cancer suddenly rendered him unable to use the right side of his body, my father was always very active and athletic. He used to run the trails in Barcroft Park with his partner, Michael, on a daily basis. He would often call my brothers and I while walking the trails, to catch up on our lives. He loved the energy within and around the park, and would often marvel to us about the wildlife he would see on his runs and walks, or the community gatherings occurring at the Pavilions and soccer fields. When my brothers or I would visit, we would run or walk the trails with him, and catch up in person. As we grew up, and had children of our own, Barcroft Park became the place he would take our children to play and explore. We have such cherished memories of my dad bonding with his grandchildren while playing on the various playgrounds in the park, and alongside the creek.

My father was a really special human being. He had a tremendous commitment to family, a strong work ethic, and a desire to better the country and community he lived in. He was always inspired to give to others, and went to work as a public servant for the Federal government in his early twenties. During his 35 years with the government, he held positions with the Social Security Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Food and Drug Administration. Throughout his successful career, he found great joy in helping citizens learn how to access vital governmental resources, and created a positive impact on public health through congressional lobbying and legislation. Some of his more notable professional projects included the creation of anti-tobacco marketing campaigns aimed to encourage teenagers to stop smoking (or never start), the design of easier to read nutrition labels and consumer education to support healthier dietary choices, and the introduction of “biologic” medications into the market in the early 2000s to treat auto-immune conditions and certain cancers.

Throughout his life, my father was involved in his community. He was active in the governing body of his Arlington neighborhood association, and enjoyed social events with his neighbors, especially when they involved live music. He was also dedicated to personal growth, and studied mindfulness meditation at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Arlington, and volunteered his time and monetary resources to both Tibetan relief efforts in the DC area, and to the National Museum of the American Indian.

My father was such a vibrant person, with a real joy for life, and a natural ability to connect to others. Even after his death, he continues to bring people from different parts of his life together. My brothers and I enjoy being contacted by his friends and colleagues, and hearing what an important influence my father was in their lives. We enjoy feeling physically connected to his memory as well, and when each of us returns to the DC area, we find ourselves seeking comfort in the trails at Barcroft Park. For the second anniversary of his death, we were hoping to commemorate his love for the park, and his contributions to the Arlington community, with a bench. We were hoping that it could be located along the path paralleling Four Mile Run, between South George Mason Drive and Doctor’s Branch, but are flexible with regards to placement. We would like it to bear an inscription with his name, a John Muir quote (“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks”), and the years of his birth and death (1950-2015).

Thank you for your kind consideration, and please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'ASL', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

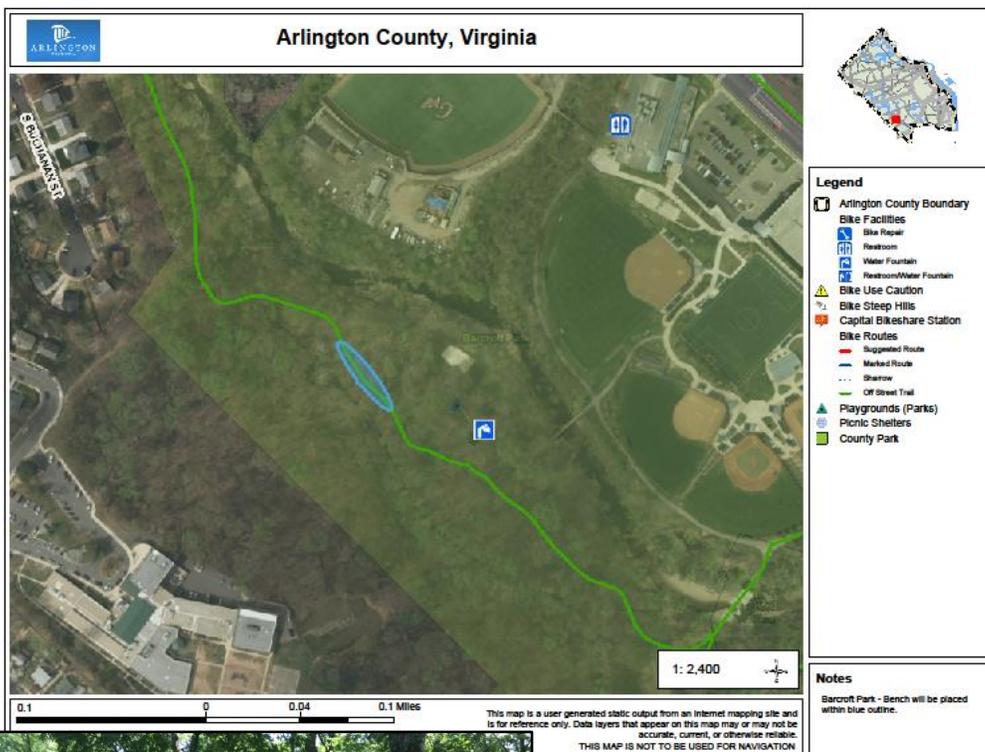
Adrien Strickland, MD

Enc: Barcroft Park, desired bench location

Project Description:

Bench/Plaque Description:

- A 1939 World’s Fair bench, manufactured by Kenneth Lynch & Sons, will be installed along a section of Four Mile Run Trail within Barcroft Park. The bench will be 6-feet long with black iron and natural Ipe wood frame (see example below). The bench will be installed on a concrete pad alongside the trail and will meet ADA standards.
- A bronze plaque (2” X 12”) will be installed on the center of the top slat of the bench with the inscription noted above.



Four Mile Run Trail



Example: 1964 World’s Fair Bench with plaque

**Mr. Jay Fiset, Chair of the Arlington County Board
Members of the Arlington County Board**

Subject: Memorial Plaque Request - Barcroft Park

Dear Mr. Fiset and Members of the County Board,

The Claremont Civic Association (CCA) Executive Committee has been in communication with the family of Mr. Dennis Strickland, who was a long-time resident of Arlington County. The CCA supports the effort of to create a memorial plaque in recognition of Mr. Strickland in Barcroft Park.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gabe Snow".

Mr. Gabe Snow

President of the Claremont Civic Association