Template for Loss of Green Space

This letter could be sent to GMU officials, provost, Va DEQ, The Nature Conservancy

Date

Address

Subject: Loss of Green Space/Cricket Stadium Development

Based on the conceptual design presented for the development of the West Campus, there appears to be a

gap between this development and the academic programs offered by the university. The plan shows a

fairly extensive build out plan – parking lots/garages, buildings and notable, a loss of green space with no

dedicated green spaces are clearly identified. Looking at the Environmental Sciences curriculum, these

spaces provide GMU a real hands-on way to develop an educational experience that would allow

graduates to parlay those skills in the business world. Space like this plays into the university’s desire to

designate the West Campus as an Innovation Center. Considerations could be things like meadow garden

for birds and insects, beehives and associated marketing of honey and honey products. His could be a

place for species identification and counting, always important in urban green spaces. In addition, it

plays well into the university’s Green Leaf program which is designed to prepare graduates for the

delivery of sustainable solutions.

Of course, it is impractical to allocate this entire space to an effort like this but a dedicated carve out

would serve not only the university but the surrounding communities. It would provide an innovative

way to align classwork to real world operations, create positive community response and be a model for

other institutions. These sorts of thoughts need to be addressed before beginning expedient money based

plans like this stadium which really services very few students.

I look forward to your thoughts.

Sincerely,