

As the Event Director for Leakin Park parkrun, I fully support the proposed plan to bring more resources to the park. Leakin Park parkrun has had an annual permit through Baltimore City Parks and Recreation (BCPR) since 24 June 2017. This permit enables us to use a 1.5 mile segment of the Gywnns Falls Trail near Winan's Meadow to host free 5K events on a weekly basis year-round. To date, we have hosted a total of 278 free events, which has brought more than 7,800 people to Winan's Meadow. parkrun (with a small "p") is a global community, with over 2,500 locations worldwide. As a result, while the majority of our participants are from the local area, we have welcomed hundreds of international participants from Australia, Europe, and Africa.

When you consider the scope of Leakin Park parkrun, it is clear to see why we support legislation to increase the park's resources and the park's reputation. While we have never had a personal security or violence-related incident at any of our 278 events, the illegal dumping and littering harms the environment and provides an unsavoury appearance for our attendees. Additionally, tourists who visit the park are inundated with the negative publicity surrounding the park, but quickly are awed by its beauty and expanse. Improvements to the park will serve to increase the park's reputation, protect the environment, and increase the number of people who would be willing to use the park.